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NOTICE TO READERS: * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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ATA 22 Jul Review of Tirana Newspapers

AU2207141291 Tirana ATA in English 0907 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 22 (ATA)—The newspapers provide a picture of the socio-political developments of the country in recent days.

ATA reports on the meeting of Premier Ylli Bufi with members of the Cakran cooperative in Fier District on questions of the stability of the situation in the countryside and the application of the land law, in particular.

It is also reported that Premier Ylli Bufi received on July 21 the third mission from the IMF, that the conference on the restructuring of the government and the public administration ended, and that the first shipment of U.S. aid arrived in Tirana on July 21. In the feature: "The Table of Political Parties, Organizations, and Associations", the newspaper BASHKIMI carries the article entitled: "The Truth about the Creation of the Republican Party", written by Gafur Muco and Shpetim Shehu.

The newspapers also write about national and international sports activities. The newspaper SPORTI writes on these activities more extensively.

The newspaper BASHKIMI carries the commentary written by Bujar Muharremi entitled: "Europe and Kosovo Seriously Threatened", which speaks of the recent dangerous developments in Kosovo and Yugoslavia.

The same paper also reports that the U.S. cultural center is expected to open in Pristina soon.

In other reports, the papers provide a picture of the situation in Yugoslavia after the decision of the Yugoslav Presidency with regard to the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army from Slovenia.

Another article reports on the visit of U.S. President Bush in Turkey and his statement on the problem of Cyprus.

Bufi Briefs IMF Mission on Economic Problems

AU2207165591 Tirana ATA in English 0802 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 22 (ATA)— On July 21, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Ylli Bufi, received the third mission of the International Monetary Fund, headed by Prof. Mario Blayer. During the meeting he briefed the IMF mission on the major features of the situation and the socioeconomic difficulties the National Stability Government is faced with. Albania, he said, is waiting to be admitted to your financial institution. We maintain that this will make our economy move from a centralized economy to a market economy. At present, the presence of foreign advisers, particularly experts in financial affairs, in the state administration is significant to us .

Prof. Mario Blayer reported that the International Monetary Fund mission has finished its study on the Albanian economy. He said that in August he will deliver the final report to the top organs of the IMF, which paves the way for Albania's admission to this organisation.

Both sides discussed IMF's intervention with the foreign banks, to which Albania has obligations, to solve the existing problems. Prof. Mario Blayer assured the Albanian premier that IMF technical missions will soon come to Tirana while Albanian economic experts will attend the training courses of this institution in Washington.

Kapllani Meets Iranian Envoy on Change, Ties

LD2307092591 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Rome, July 23, IRNA—Albania will proceed with the current pace of developments in the country and is to grant more religious freedom to the Muslim population, said Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani in Tirana Monday. In a meeting with special envoy of the Iranian foreign minister Bahram Ghasemi, Kapllani said Tirana is determined to go ahead with radical changes in political structure of the country and allow nation further religious freedom. More than 80 percent of the Albanian population are Muslims. The Albanian minister also called on Iran to assist Tirana in removing its economic and cultural bottlenecks stating that the Islamic Republic has valuable experiences which can be helpful in settling the Albanian crisis. Iran and Albania enjoy plenty of common cultural and historical backgrounds, he reiterated adding that Tirana is willing to expand cooperation with Tehran. Both the Albanian Government and nation feel very close with the Iranian government and nation and the Albanian officials are determined to promote bilateral ties and cooperation, he said. On the recent developments in the Balkan state, Kapllani said that Albania is going through rapid changes and that the process of democratization and granting individual freedom is well underway. While preserving its culture and tradition, Albania is determined to continue the current process, he said. The Albanian official also underlined the need for opening the two countries' embassies in Tehran and Tirana and for establishment of full diplomatic ties. He stressed that opening of embassies is a positive step and needed for promotion of bilateral ties. The Iranian delegation is in Tirana since last Saturday to discuss promotion of ties and opening of embassies in the two countries' capitals which is expected to take place within the next few months. The Iranian envoy submitted Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's written message to Kapllani dealing with bilateral relations. Ghasemi stressed Iran's willingness to expand ties with Albania adding that with respect to the recent developments in that country, Tehran intends to upgrade its ties with Tirana. The Iranian delegation has so far met with economic, oil and education officials and exchanged views on ways of Tehran-Tirana economic and cultural cooperation.

Conference on Government Restructuring Continues

AU2207165391 Tirana ATA in English 0848 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 22 (ATA)—The conference on restructuring the government and the public adminstration in the Republic of Albania, organized by the Ministry of the Economy with United Nations Development Program [UNDP] senior experts participating, continued its proceedings on July 21 with reports. Over the course of two days, four reports were presented, in addition to contributions from Albanian and foreign experts.

The minister of mining and energy resources, Drini Mezini, treated some problems of restructuring the system of organization and administration of the links of this ministry.

Then Mr. Patrick Tardy, UNDP senior adviser, read the report entitled: "Restructuring the Ministry of Mining and Energy Resources of Albania," which treated, among other things, the ministry's structure, composition, and functioning and its relations with enterprises, corporations, and other ministries.

Dr. Gramoz Pashko, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of economy, stated the conclusions of the conference.

First Shipment of U.S. Food Aid Arrives

AU2207173591 Tirana ATA in English 0806 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 22 (ATA)—On July 21, the U.S. assistant undersecretary of defence [title as received] of the United States of America, Dr. Bob Wolthuis, who escorted the first shipment of the humanitarian food aid the U.S. has accorded to the Republic of Albania, arrived in our country by airplane of the U.S. military forces command.

Minister of Defence Perikli Teta met and had a friendly conversation with the assistant undersecretary of defence of the U.S., Dr. Bob Wolthuis.

FAO Official on Possible Aid From 'Trust Fund'

AU2207140891 Tirana ATA in English 0903 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Tirana, July 22 (ATA)—One of the most recent issues of the newspaper BASHKIMI carried an interview which the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization regional director for Europe, Mr. Alessando Bozzini, has granted to the editor-in-chief of the review SHKENCA DHE JETA.

Albania, Mr. Alessando Bozzini says, among other things, in his interview, has been a member of FAO with full rights since 1973. Upto now it has profited from various development projects, mainly regarding the improvement of technical training and the equipping of various scientific research institutes and agricultural teaching institute with apparatuses.

The year 1990, Mr. Bozzini says further on, marks a new positive development in these relations, during which the Albanian government has forwarded more than 10 interesting proposals and projects which FAO will present to the possible donor governments, ready to voluntarily deposit in FAO a "trust fund". This is a new formula for Albania, but a very successful one, which makes way for the realization of a great number of projects. The projects proposed by Albania for the possible use of this formula have to do with the improvement of the veterinary services, the protection of the land, etc.

FAO has started to work actively and we hope the donor states will take an interest in and support some of these projects.

Government Bans Arms Traffic to SFRY

AU2207200891 Sofia BTA in English 1720 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 22 (BTA)—The Council of Ministers decided today to ban the export, re-export and transit across Bulgarian territory of military equipment, arms, ammunition and defence-related materials to Yugoslavia. The competent institutions are authorized to control the enforcement of the decision.

Zhelev Urges Agreement on Electoral System

AU2207200291 Sofia BTA in English 1648 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 22 (BTA)—President Zhelyu Zhelev sent the following letter to the Bureau of the Grand National Assembly:

"So far the political consultations on the general and local elections to be held on September 29 have not produced the desired results. No agreement was reached on the major question: The type and nature of the electoral system according to which the elections will be held.

"Individual parliamentary groups have already drawn up and submitted their versions of an electoral bill based on a mixed or proportional-representation system. These drafts will inevitably run into difficulties when debated in the parliamentary committees and in plenary sittings because the drafts are based on different principles.

"In this connection, I suggest that the Bureau of the Grand National Assembly consider the need to introduce at a plenary sitting and that parliament determine in advance the type and nature of the electoral system for the forthcoming elections. I believe this matter should be decided by the vote of all M.P.'s".

Popov Interviewed on Forthcoming Elections

AU2307082791 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 17 Jul 91 p 4

[Interview with Prime Minister Dimitur Popov, by Damyan Obreshkov; place and date not given: "Honest, Repectable People Should Come Out in Front"]

[Excerpts] [Obreshkov] Do you think that political passions are blinding parties and their leaders to the pressing national problems? I do not know how things will turn out, but it is a fact that the Movement for Rights and Freedoms demands cultural autonomy and voices ultimatums that this clause should become part of the Constitution. I am convinced that the processes under way in the Macedonian region deserve much greater attention than is currently paid to them.

Why are we not concerned about the fact that the birth rate of the Bulgarian population is dropping? Bulgaria is threatened by an obliteration of its identity as a nation, and the integrity of our state [durzhavnost] is in jeopardy. The real dangers, the true national tasks are ignored. It is precisely for that reason that we are obliged to revive our national ideals, in my view....

[Popov] It is true. One of the basic reasons is that, unfortunately, we have no concept on the so-called nationality issue in Bulgaria. As far as I am concerned I am trying, with the help of our scientists, historians, scholars, public figures, and journalists to put together a group in charge of discussing this question. The question can certainly not be solved in one week, or even in 10 weeks. However, the question should be gradually clarified and assume a categorical meaning likely to become a basic principle of our policy and of public life as a whole. The Bulgarian question is not only determined by the sharp confrontation between the two ethnic communities. These matters are connected with human rights and freedoms, and I have repeatedly stated that their application and their real implementation should be guaranteed. A democracy cannot exist without the guarantee for all people to enjoy and exercise human rights and freedoms. As soon as this guarantee becomes reality, demands for cultural, ethnic, and other forms of autonomy would become irrelevant. We are one integral state, and we cannot permit ourselves the luxury of granting such forms of autonomy to any minorities, because this would mean the end of Bulgaria's existence as a state.

You are right in saying that we were excessively distracted by their political ideas and activities of members of the legislature, the representatives of political forces in our country are not sufficiently concerned about the question of Bulgaria. Nevertheless, the democratization of Bulgaria could not possibly be separated from the question of preserving the Bulgarian spirit, the Bulgarian national presence, and the Bulgarian identity. In the long run it is not a question of any population whatsoever, but of the existence of the Bulgarian nation whose offspring we are and whose inseparable part we represent. We do not serve the people in general, but the Bulgarian people in particular. In this context, however, we should point out that we do not only serve the Bulgarians, but all people who live in this country, regardless of their ethnic origins. The concept of Bulgaria is broader and richer than the mere ethnic affiliation. Therefore I could say that I no longer understand, but I would rather say that I understand only too well why certain political forces are neglecting this issue. [passage omitted]

[Obreshkov] We are facing new elections. Naturally, the political struggle is expected to expand. At the same time nearly one-third of our people are unwilling to vote, or do not know whom they should vote for. Under such circumstances, what stand is Dimitur Popov going to take? What will be the role of independent politicians, such as yourself, Ginyo Ganev, and others? Numerous people have the feeling that independent public figures have greater chances and greater responsibility today. I would even add that this applies to independent intellectuals. However, if we accept the proportional system,

how will you participate in the elections? Is it not necessary for the nonaligned people to form a group, or even something like a movement. I am reluctant to use the term party, but perhaps a national movement, or a national league of the independent and nonaligned? I am very interested in this question, what is your own view?

[Popov] You are touching on a subject that is my own problem, and not only mine. It concerns a great number of Bulgarians.

I got involved in politics without belonging to any political party, but I was inspired by the ardent passion of a desperate democrat and constitutionalist, as I would describe myself. I am a patriot who loves this nation, just like you. Numerous people of this kind exist in our country. They should not remain outside Bulgaria's active political life. Bulgaria's development is a common right and duty. It should not be the exclusive prerogative of the political forces represented in the legislature. Many other political forces exist outside the legislature. They have no solid structures as yet, and perhaps they do not possess an articulate political identity, but they exist. The results of the latest public opinion polls showed that approximately 30 percent of the people in our country have no political orientation, which is not a very positive sign. [passage omitted]

It is not the right time for petty politicking today, but it is time for the active involvement of the nonaligned population in political life. However, I do not see any possibility for them to send their representatives into the future legislature if only the proportional system should prevail. This system makes it possible for party representatives to be elected to the legislature, but disregards individuals. Those who are not affiliated with any party have no opportunity of participating in the country's political life. In this respect the majority system has certain advantages that we should not neglect. [passage omitted]

Vulkov Receives Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister

AU2207182191 Sofia BTA in English 1651 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 22 (BTA)—Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Viktor Vulkov received today Mr. Mokless Khobba [name as received], deputy foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who is visiting here. They discussed aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East and other important interregional problems.

Mr. Doncho Donchev, deputy foreign minister of Bulgaria, and Mr. Mokless Khobba held political consultations. They found that the sides hold similar or identical views on a large number of bilateral and international problems.

Mr. Khobba was also received by Mr. Atanas Paparizov, minister of foreign economic relations.

Foreign Minister Vulkov Departs for Israel

AU2207200491 Sofia BTA in English 1634 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 22 (BTA)—Mr. Viktor Vulkov, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, left today on an official visit to Israel at the invitation of Mr. David Levi, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Israel.

Mr. Vulkov is expected to be received by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky, political figures and businessmen.

Arrives in Tel Aviv

AU2307103491 Sofia BTA in English 0750 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Tel Aviv, July 23 (BTA)—Bulgaria's Minister of Foreign Affairs Viktor Vulkov arrived late last night in Israel at the head of an eight-member delegation. He was welcomed by Israel's Minister of Transport Moshe Qatzav.

In a brief statement for the press Mr. Viktor Vulkov described his visit as an indication that Bulgaro-Israeli relations need speeding up. "We have a lot to catch up," he said.

Today Mr. Vulkov will meet with his Israeli counterpart Mr. David Levi to sign a programme-protocol on cooperation between the two countries' Foreign Ministries. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will also receive Mr. Vulkov today.

Mr. Shamir is expected to visit Bulgaria in the near future. The Bulgarian delegation will visit the Knesset where they will be welcomed by its speaker Mr. Dov Shilansky. [spelling as received]

The Bulgarian delegation will also visit industrial enterprises, will tour the country and will meet with businessmen and politicians. Three Bulgarian ministers and two deputy ministers visited Israel in July alone. A year after the resumption of Bulgaro-Israeli diplomatic relations, this summer became the season to catch up on missed opportunities.

SDS's Yordanov Praises Government for Support

AU2307071691 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 18 Jul 91 p 1

[Maya Lyubomirska report on statement by Aleksandur Yordanov of the Union of Democratic Forces, SDS, for OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK; place and date not given: "The Government Extended Its Hand to Us"]

[Text] The legislative group of the Union of Democratic Forces-National Movement held a meeting that lasted over four hours yesterday. The deputies on hunger strike are part of this group. Their major demand that forced them to walk out of parliament, concerning the date of

the forthcoming elections, was satisfied after the president set the election date for 29 September 1991. The second oath of the deputies, which was declared as not being a condition for legislative seats, is no longer an issue. Only the referendum on the Constitution remains a controversial subject.

Aleksandur Yordanov stated as follows in a special interview for OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK: We are grateful to the government for its declaration. It understood our motivations and offered us its hand.

We, the journalists, also realized that there are two options for overcoming the current tension in political life. Which of the two the National Assembly deputies who recently walked out of the National Assembly will choose depends on the legislature's attitude to the referendum. The opposition members who are on strike have not demanded and do not demand that the referendum should take place prior to the elections. According to them, the National Assembly should make a pronouncement on the necessity of holding a referendum on the new Constitution.

The hunger strike continues for the time being.

SDS Discusses Internal Conflicts, Elections

AU2207200791 Sofia BTA in English 1715 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 22 (BTA)—At today's meeting of the National Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), SDS leader Filip Dimitrov reported on the political situation and the electoral system.

"The SDS will run in the forthcoming elections on a single blue list," SDS spokesman Mikhail Nedelchev told journalists later on.

An hour later, Mr. Aleksandur Karakachanov, leader of the Green Party which formed a Liberal Bloc with other parties, told journalists that the radicals of the "Group 39" want neither three lists on a single ballot-paper, nor a single ballot-paper. But he did not say anything about a single blue list.

According to the Greens, Mr. Filip Dimitrov was rather moderate in his report today and stated the realities: The SDS has three tendencies which therefore should run on three lists. Mr. Lyubomir Ivanov of the Green Party said that Mr. Dimitrov had been attacked immediately. A representative of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation which has observer status at the SDS (last year the influential trade union amalgamation organized a strike which brought down Mr. Andrey Lukanov's cabinet) described the report as "creeping Zhelevism," alluding to Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev's policy as leader of the SDS until last August. According to Mr. Ivanov, criticism was levelled against Mr. Filip Dimitrov, the president and the United BZNS [Bulgarian National Agrarian Union], among other opposition parties, and representatives of SDS affiliates in the provincial coordinating councils.

Within a couple of days the National Coordinating Council will expect the local branches of the SDS affiliates of the Liberal Bloc and the SDS Center which have differences with the respective party leaders to give their opinions on the single list. According to the Greens, this will encourage local branches to distance themselves from their party leaders.

Mr. Karakachanov and Mr. Ivanov accused the radicals today of favouring the majority decision system as much as Mr. Aleksandur Lilov, the leader of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) does. "Lilov wants a mixed system with small constituencies which in practice is tantamount to a majority system," Mr. Ivanov said. According to SDS leader Filip Dimitrov, the majority system idea has been given up.

If the radicals remain opposed to the "one-ballot-paper—three-lists" idea and the SDS opts for three separate ballot-papers, in actual fact there will be factions in parliament which will have split the votes of their own constituents, according to Mr. Ivanov. He believes the BSP may win a majority of the votes and form a government.

According to Mr. Emil Nenov of the Green Party, who attended the meeting of the Coordinating Council, the SDS "has financial difficulties." In his report, Mr. Filip Dimitrov said bluntly that the SDS has run out of money.

Dissident MP Durmov on 'Isolation' of DPS

AU2307104091 Sofia BTA in English 0840 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 23 (BTA)—A run of political setbacks, a policy of confrontation with parliament, the government, the president, and an undemocratic leadership led to what Mr Miroslav Durmov MP describes as the present isolation and political fiasco of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS). He recently left the DPS parliamentary faction and declared himself independent together with another DPS MP, Mr Yuliy Bakhnev.

In an interview for today's "ZEMYA" Mr Durmov blames DPS leader Ahmed Dogan for undemocratic leadership of the movement, for "a totalitarian and semi-criminal method of action of the DPS." The independent MP calls his ex-colleagues' refusal to sign the Constitution a "tragic fact" and a "betrayal of the interests of Bulgarian Turks." Many of them had come under strong pressure, including death threats to them and their families, to walk out of parliament, according to Mr Durmov.

Mr Durmov believes a policy of intensified segregation of Bulgarian Turks is being pursued and it can have terrible consequences. "This led to the spread of the emigration hysteria and the confinement of those who stayed in the country under the leadership of several people. And the latter hardly have the moral right to defend Bulgarian Turks' interests," Mr Miroslav

Durmov says. A way out is to set up a political organization defending their rights in which Bulgarians, Turks and representatives of other ethnic communities will be able to stand up for their civil rights, according to Mr Durmov.

The new Bulgarian Constitution is up to European standards with its guaranteed freedom to study one's mother tongue, inadmissibility of forced assimilation, respect and recognition of ethnic identity and development of a specific ethnic culture, and with the prohibition of interethnic hostility.

Agrarian Party Council Supports Unification

AU2007160691 Sofia BTA in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 20 (BTA)—The Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) favours the setting up of a united agrarian party as a political guarantee of Bulgaria's overcoming the economic crisis, of the defence of democracy and civil peace. The BZNS Supreme Council took this decision at its meeting today.

Elaborating on the political situation in the country, BZNS Chairman Viktor Vulkov stressed that after the passage of the Constitution it is very important to ensure its strict enforcement and implementation. According to him, any other view endangers civil peace and democracy in this country.

The Agrarians' proper performance in the forthcoming general and local elections and the unity of Agrarians over the country were high on the agenda of the meeting. It was stressed that in strict compliance with its statute, the BZNS firmly stands up for its political view that it should run in the elections on its own ballot-paper. However, the Supreme Council does not rule out the possibility to find allies both among the parliamentary and non- parliamentary forces closest to the Agrarians' ideas.

Participation in the elections—as a disunited or as a united BZNS—was debated heatedly, and certain BZNS leaders were attacked unsparingly. It was stressed that people who served the totalitarian regime should be ousted from top positions in the local organizations.

No one in the BZNS is against the unification with the Nikola Petkov Agrarian Party. The setting up of a united and independent agrarian party is considered a top priority for the future of the organization, for the people's rule and Bulgaria's survival. The BZNS-United will be a more powerful and authoritative force of political assessment, participants in the meeting stressed repeatedly.

The Supreme Council authorized the chairman and the Standing Committee to work towards an agreement to set up the BZNS-United, an agreement based on the principles of mutual respect and respect for the two sides' rights and interests.

The Supreme Council also decided to support and take active part in the conference of unification scheduled for July 27.

Glushkov, Ganev Meet With Australian MPs

AU2207164991 Sofia BTA in English 1505 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 22 (BTA)—"After the parliamentary elections scheduled for September 29 there should be no Socialists in the government," said Agrarian leader Ivan Glushkov, deputy chairman of parliament. He said he made this statement with a view to Bulgaria's interests and its need of help by the West.

At today's meeting with an Australian parliamentary delegation Mr. Glushkov and Mr. Ginyo Ganev, the other deputy chairman of parliament, explained that the opposition, consisting of various affiliates of the Union of Democratic Forces and the two Agrarian parties, can expect to win some 55 to 60 per cent of the votes.

Mr. Ganev announced that in the next few days the political forces are expected to agree on an electoral system. According to him, the proportional representation system will probably be chosen (last year's elections were held according to a mixed system).

The Australian delegation includes representatives of all parliamentary parties and is led by Senate President Kerry Sibraa. In their meetings with the Bureau of Bulgaria's parliament and with the leaders of the parliamentary political forces the guests learned that it has not been decided yet how the Movement for Rights and Freedoms will run in the elections: As a registered political party or in alliance with another political force. The movement is supported by more than 100,000 Bulgarians of Turkish ethnic identity.

The political forces insist that the elections be monitored by many foreigners so as to avoid disputes over the results, whatever they may be.

President Zhelyu Zhelev and Prime Minister Dimitur Popov are expected to receive the Australian M.P.'s tomorrow.

TV, Radio Commission Chief on Objectivity

AU2007153491 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 17 Jul 91 p 6

[Article by Krustyu Goranov, cochairman of the Television and Radio Commission of the Grand National Assembly: "Freedom of Speech or Irresponsibility of Prejudice"]

[Text] One of the most acute issues raised for public discussion is the political bias and partiality of the national television and national radio. The viewpoints on this issue have polarized.

A large number of people are indignant at the political one-sidedness and prejudice displayed in most television and radio programs, and lately they have been amazed at the undeclared, but provocatively furious war against the legislature (which under the Constitution directly supervises both television and radio), against the Constitution, and against those who created and voted for these institutions. The campaign started with the mocking and rejection of a completely reasonable and indisputable decision by the Grand National Assembly that pointed out the duty of the two powerful mass media organs to help to strengthen national and social peace, and developed into direct appeals against the National Assembly and crude lies like the one that tanks had set off against the members of the legislature on hunger strike, or the one that someone had beaten up Ventseslav Medarski, and calls for student actions against the legislature and constitutional order. From morning to night they broadcast declarations by the handful of Podkrepa supporters on the television staff, who not only demand the resignation of Ognyan Saparev, the lawful chairman of the Television Committee, but even threaten to prevent him from entering his office. In passing, they denigrate everything they come across. For example, a transmission on the Khorizont Program denigrated the history of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]: When the tragedy of the September 1923 uprising was mentioned, the soundtrack carried a lively Bulgarian folk dance, and loud cheers were heard when the news of the death of Blagoev was announced.... The examples are legion, and the indignation of an immense number of people at this unprecedented behavior is immeasurable.

Others defend the present image of radio and television, placing particular emphasis upon absolute autonomy and completely unrestricted freedom of speech and information. They are not disturbed by the fact that this autonomy, this freedom is so biased and partial in its nature, or that television and radio have become megaphones for a handful of striking politicians and members of the legislature (some of whom have recently declared a hunger strike), who have set themselves the goal, at any price and by any means, of dissolving the Grand National Assembly and hindering the adoption of the new Constitution.

These are the wishes of a politically extreme minority. But they are acquiring an importance that threatens social peace because of the partisan one-sidedness of certain journalists in radio and television. In speaking of partisan one-sidedness, I have in mind not only party bias of a kind that could have been spoken of at a previous stage, party bias with a blue tinge. The point at issue now is the partisanship of a minority in the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] with a strongly expressed right-wing orientation. For this minority, Dr. Dertliev is already "a teacher of the Communists" (see the 15 July issue of DEMOKRATSIYA), and some of the previous creators and leaders of the SDS are now his enemies. This minority is plotting a coup within the opposition's own ranks, as well as a conspiracy against the legislature and the Constitution.

Certain zealous supporters of "freedom of speech" are placing themselves at the service of this minority. Whether or not they do so consciously and for selfish motives, they are using their privilege to hold the microphone or direct the camera for the benefit of this conspiracy, this coup d'etat. For almost 24 hours a day, it seems that the Khorizont Program can find no other domestic or foreign news apart from the appeals of one or other of the hunger-striking members of the legislature against the Constitution and the legislature. Following the adoption of the Constitution, the "Panorama" program on Bulgarian Television continues to reject it and to intersperse its news on the Grand National Assembly proceedings with appeals, declarations, and prejudices against the legislature and the very spirit of the Constitution. Precisely at 0900 on 12 July, when the Grand National Assembly started to sign the Constitution, the Khristo Botev program carried funeral music in memory of the Bulgarians killed in Slovenia. When the police carried out their duty of preserving law and order during the signing of the Constitution, and prevented the attempts to force entry into the National Assembly building, a demand was immediately made for the resignation of the minister of internal affairs. However, perhaps Minister Danov deserves not a rebuke, but support, because this action prevented an unforeseeable arbitrary event in the National Assembly building that would not only have threatened the inviolability of the hunger-striking members of the legislature, but would also have irrevocably placed our country and our young legislative democracy in a bad light in the eyes of the world. As soon as the mayor of Sofia refused permission for the rally in front of the television building (which nonetheless did take place), Mikhail Nedelchev demanded his resignation. However, perhaps Mr. Karakachanov had good grounds for such a ban? It is precisely television and radio that under street pressure may provide the spark that may set fire to the rug and cause bloodshed in our national life. Can it be that calls have already rung out, rejecting the peaceful transition, and wishes have been publicly voiced for the blood to flow here, as in Yugoslavia? What would otherwise have been an isolated example of schizophrenia is being turned by radio and television into a direct danger for the nation. How can anyone in radio censor the Council of Ministers and its chairman, fail to publicize declarations proposed by them, and distort their announcements? How can a television editor, in disobedience to a direct order from the chairman of Bulgarian Television, prevent the broadcasting of speeches during the adoption of the Constitution in the Grand National Assembly or other important statements?

Is this journalistic freedom of speech? Freedom of the written and spoken word is a cornerstone of democracy, but it is always inseparably linked with responsibility for the truth. Irresponsible political prejudices cannot be concealed by babbling about freedom of speech; at the same time, the privilege of making use of such powerful national means of influence as the radio microphone and the television camera cannot be used for purposes of

distorting the truth or deliberately deluding people, for nonobjectivity or political provocation. The whole meaning of the "fourth power," which often outstrips the first three because it daily enters the homes of millions of families, is to defend the political power and public morality from exploitation, not to pervert people and incite them against one another, not to be the lackey of selfish political aims that divide the nation.

No, the issue at stake has nothing to do with freedom of speech. It is playing with fire, and may cost each and everyone of us very dearly. It is high time for intellectual responsibility to win the upper hand over selfish considerations and self-delusion. A very high price must be paid in order for false self-conceit to give way to responsibility, and for the ominous promptings from the side to stop. The guilty consciences should not deceive themselves into thinking that someone will secure an indulgence for them for undermining national peace.

Government Approves Health Insurance Bill

AU2[illegible]7165191 Sofia BTA in English 1525 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sofia, July 22 (BTA)—The government today approved a health insurance bill. Until now health insurance was funded entirely by the exchequer. Under the new bill, health insurance funds will be raised at national and municipal level. Cooperatives and trade companies, religious and charity associations will also be able to raise health insurance funds.

The National Health Insurance Fund will be raised on the basis of mandatory contributions at the rate of 12 per cent of the pretax monthly wages. Employees and employers will pay six per cent each. Unemployed people will pay 20 per cent of the benefit equivalent to the minimum wage. In the first three years the national fund will get subsidies from the state and credits from national and foreign banks. State payments to the fund will be allocated annually in the national budget. A separate account will be open to finance expensive treatment such as transplants, sophisticated prostheses, haemodialysis, etc.

The state will fund only nationwide health activities such as sanitary control, medical science and education.

After the National Assembly passes it, the health insurance act will take effect from the beginning of 1992.

Developments in Private Business Proceed

AU2307085791 Sofia SVOBODEN NAROD in Bulgarian 17 Jul 91 p 3

[Iva Varsanova report: "Private Business Gets Down To Work"]

[Text] Private businessmen will not have to concern themselves with the government any more, but will only have to get down to work. Mr. Valentin Mollov, chairman of the Citizens' Economic Initiatives Committee, stated this on 16 July at the committee's regular meeting with journalists. Private businessmen by their own efforts will attempt to usher a market economy into Bulgaria. Their last step forward was the decision to set up an investment fund that will help small and medium-sized companies. Other projects are also in the pipeline, such as the project to set up an information network.

According to Mr. Cherpokov, leader of the Business Party, the economic reform in Bulgaria is just holding together but is not doing anything in particular to breathe life into production. In addition to this, if the next National Assembly is again split into shades of red and blue [the colors of the Bulgarian Socialist Party and the Union of Democratic Forces respectively], the future will not be any different from the present. Mr. Cherpokov's attitude toward the recently adopted Constitution is categorical. If it were adopted by a different group of deputies, it would be acceptable. Or to be more precise, the contents of the Constitution are not important but rather the conditions under which it is adopted. Despite the fact that Mr. Cherpokov is not acquainted in detail with the new Constitution's contents but only with the preliminary drafts, he is of the opinion that it is a Constitution for a strong government and the weak and independent citizen [as published].

The overall stance of the businessmen is that private business is the only guarantee that processes are irreversible in Bulgaria. They do not believe that they are responsible for the sluggishness of reform.

Ludzhev Delegation Signs World Bank Agreement

AU2307103191 Sofia BTA in English 0800 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Washington, July 23 (BTA)—A Bulgarian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Dimitur Ludzhev arrived here last night. This morning it met with Ms. Carla Hills, U.S. trade representative.

An agreement was signed with the World Bank on granting a technical assistance loan to Bulgaria. The signing was attended by Finance Minister Ivan Kostov, National Bank Governor Todor Vulchev and Bulgaria's Ambassador to the United States Ognyan Pishev. Later on the delegation met with Mr. Willie Wapenhans, vice president of the World Bank for Europe. A document was signed under which Bulgaria becomes a member of the international finance corporation.

Assembly Approves Court Law, Recesses Jul 19

AU2207124391 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 20 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[CTK report: "Parliament in Recess"]

[Excerpts] Prague—Yesterday, during the final day of its 16th session, the Federal Assembly approved a law on courts and judges.

Of the 103 deputies present in the House of the People, 82 voted in favor of the law. Of the 50 deputies present in the Slovak part of the House of Nations, 45 voted in favor of the law and, of the 64 deputies present in the Czech part of the House of Nations, 43 voted in favor of the law. [passage omitted]

Following the law's approval, House of the People Deputy Marta Nazari-Burivalova (Movement For Self-Governing Democracy—Society For Moravia and Silesia) thanked her colleagues for passing the law. This means that the CSFR Supreme Court will be located in Brno. The chambers had already decided on this proposal—proposed by her—when the law was first debated.

Two Civic Forum-Civic Democratic Party [OF-ODS] deputies submitted an interpellation to Marian Calfa regarding the establishment of the Transpetrol and Transgas shareholding companies. In their opinion, the jurisdiction law has been violated because illegal agreements were concluded between the governments of both republics on dividing property owned by the federation. The chambers accepted this as a serious interpellation. Following a proposal from House of Nations Deputy Jana Petrova (OF-ODS), a resolution was approved according to which the government should reappraise its measures for implementing the constitutional law on returning Communist Party of Czechoslovakia property to the CSFR people. Following a speech delivered by Minister Vavrousek, the 16th joint session came to an end and the legislature's summer recess began.

Since 1 April, when a new Federal Assembly agenda came into effect, 21 House of Nations deputies have been absent for a long period from the joint sessions. This is apparent from an evaluation of the attendance records made available to CTK by this chamber's chairman, Milan Sutovec. During the period under observation (from 1 April to 16 June), joint sessions were held on a total of 25 days. Each of the deputies was absent for 8.5 days on average. Deputy Vladimir Meciar (Movement For a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS]) achieved an absolute "first" for his unexcused non-participation. He was absent for 24 days. He is immediately followed by Deputy Jan Slota (Slovak National Party), with a 23-day unexcused absence. However, unlike Deputy Meciar, he is drawing his deputy's salary. None of the other deputies was absent without reason, except Deputy Roman Zelenay (HZDS) who has two unexcused days to his account. The reason for the deputies' non-participation in Federal Assembly sessions was—apart from illness—foreign visits.

[Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 20 July on pages 1 and 2, under the headline "Parliament in Recess," carries a 900-word report by Alena Borovickova on the same Federal Assembly session. However, this report adds that the deputies elected "an eighth member to the special supervisory organ overseeing the activity of the Federal Security and Information Service. [House of the People Deputy] Jaromir Slapota (Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party) was elected to this post in a secret ballot."]

Land Law Said To Discriminate Against Minorities

AU2007131191 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 15 Jul p 2

[Sandor Neszmeri report: "Harmful Discrimination Against Hungarians in the CSFR"]

[Text] The joint faction of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement and the Coexistence Political Movement submitted an interpellation at the 16th joint session of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly in connection with the recently adopted land law and the subsequent situation.

The eight Hungarian and one Polish deputies objected to the fact that the land law discriminates against the Hungarian and German minority in the CSFR in the way it treats reprivatization. Specifically, it stipulates regulations formulated during the totalitarian regime, and the Hungarians would only get back a maximum of 50 hectares of their land, while the other nationalities of the CSFR would get back as much as 150 hectares or 250 hectares of forest.

The interpellations also deals with another problem, namely that the CSFR borders were modified in 1945 and the Hungarians lost certain areas, but compensation for the owners was not resolved; in other words, the bilateral agreements signed between the Hungarian People's Republic and the CSFR dispossessed the lawful owners. According to the deputies who submitted the interpellation, this issue should also be discussed again, because it is impossible to build a constitutional state by letting agreements signed by communist regimes remain valid.

The deputies also protest that no clear implementation regulations accompanied the land law, and this practically led to the fact that some land offices have even demanded that the Hungarians prove they took the loyalty oath after they received their citizenship back in 1948. The assertion of the Hungarians' rights is also being hindered by other means.

The deputies submitted the interpellation to deputy prime ministers Dlohy and Dienstbier, but they have not yet received an answer.

Court Allows Announcement of Screening Results

AU2207171291 Prague CTK in English 1222 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Prague July 18 (CTK)—Prague City Court today overruled a decision by the District Court in Prague 7 which would have barred the Federal Assembly (parliament) from making public the results of its investigation of deputies for past collaboration with the secret police.

On March 21, the Prague 7 Court decided in favor of federal parliamentarians Vaclav Tomis and Boleslav Barta, who requested a restraining order to prevent their names from being read out in a live broadcast from parliament on March 22, or otherwise publicized.

Both Tomis and Barta were leading members of the Movement for Autonomous Democracy/Society for Moravia and Silesia (HSD-SMS) at the time of the case. Barta died of a heart attack in June.

The city court accepted the appeal of the Prague 7 decision by members of the parliamentary commission on screening. The ruling said statements made about deputies or other public officials on the floor of parliament cannot be redressed through the judicial system as they fall exclusively within the legislature's jurisdiction.

Deputies cannot be restricted by judicial decisions, said the city court's decision. Only the parliament has the right to choose whether its sessions will be public.

Gas Pipeline Privatization Exemption Reported

AU2007181691 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 18 Jul 91 p 2

[Stanislav Tomanek report: "Further Clouds Over TRANSGAS; Divergent Positions of the Governments of the Republics"]

[Excerpt] Bratislava— Among the most interesting pieces of information provided at the [Slovak] government's news conference [after its 16 July meeting] was the announcement by Slovak Economy Minister Jozef Belcak about the founding of the TRANSGAS joint stock company. The existence of a number of parallels with the founding of the TRANSPETROL joint stock company is of particular interest. Both companies should have seen the light of day half a year ago, and in both instances billions of korunas are at stake.

"The Slovak Government approved the founding of the TRANSGAS joint stock company based in Bratislava from 1 August 1991," Minister Belcak said. "It took note of the transfer of the right to administer the property of the Transit Gas Pipeline belonging to the Czech Gas Industry to the Slovak Gas Industry. This transfer concerns property situated on the territory of the Slovak Republic. At the same time, it granted the Slovak Gas Industry an exemption from the [law on the] transfer of state property to other persons, on the understanding that this property as a whole will be committed to the TRANSGAS joint stock company."

We inquired about the composition of the administrative board, about the founding capital and its structure, and about the division of profits. "The Slovak Republic will have six representatives on the administrative board, which is the majority; the proportion of invested capital is 52 to 48 in favor of the Slovak Republic, and profits, too, will be divided according to this ratio," Minister Belcak said. Just for illustration, the organization expects profits of 12 billion korunas this year. "Let me state for the sake of accuracy that the ratio of basic assets in the present organization—the Transit Gas Pipeline—is approximately 74 to 26 in favor of Slovakia. We have been pushing for the founding of TRANSGAS since the beginning of the year, and the Slovak budget has been deprived of approximately 300 million korunas every month as a result of this delay. We have come to an agreement with the Czech and federal partners that these disproportions will be equalized retroactively, going back to 1 January 1991." [passage omitted]

Czech Government Rejects Exemption

AU2007180291 Prague CTK in English 1234 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] Prague July 18 (CTK)— The Czech Government yesterday rejected a request by the Slovak Gas Industry to be exempted from standard legal procedures in transforming the Slovak gas pipeline, "TRANSGAS," into a joint stock company.

Czech Minister for Administration and Privatization of National Property Tomas Jezek told a press conference that the Slovak Government's Tuesday decision to make TRANSGAS into a shareholding company on August 1 ignored the questions of taxes and division of profits, which amounted to 12,000 million crowns (400 million USD) [currencies as received] in 1990.

According to legislation on "large privatization," state-owned enterprises are required to submit to the government a privatization plan. Exemptions are considered only in the case of companies with property that is difficult to liquidate, and only up to a total value of 15,000 crowns (500 USD), Jezek said.

In bitter negotiations on power sharing in February of this year, the Federal, Czech, and Slovak Governments agreed not to divide the pipeline into Slovak and Czech sections. Headquartered in Bratislava, the state enterprise "Transit Pipeline" was to remain united, running through both republics. Eventually it was to be privatized with 49 percent of the shares for the Czechs and 51 percent for the Slovaks.

Today's edition of the Czech daily "MLADA FRONTA DNES" warned that the pipeline issue was threatening to create renewed conflict between the Slovak and Czech Republics. "Just because the Slovak Government decided to transform the former state enterprise into a joint stock company by taking advantage of an exemption from the law ...doesn't mean the Czech Government has to agree...."

The Government of the Czech Republic has proposed three-way negotiations between the Federal, Slovak, and Czech prime ministers to settle the issue. Slovak Premier Jan Carnogursky said Slovak officials will discuss the pipeline with Federal Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy on July 24.

Trade Unions Suspend Tripartite Talks

AU2207133191 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 20 Jul 91 p 2

[CTK report: "The Government Has Violated the Agreement"]

[Text] Prague—Jana Kasparova, spokeswoman for the Czech and Slovak Confederation of Trade Unions (CSKOZ), handed CTK a statement yesterday on the suspension of talks within the Council for Economic and Social Accord. Trade union leaders took this step following the Federal Government's decision on 18 July not to valorize the minimum wage. According to the trade unionists, the government has unequivocally violated the General Agreement.

The following is contained in the statement: "CSKOZ had assumed that the government would honor the statement made by the eight partners involved in all three tripartite talks, as well as the General Agreement concluded with the trades unions as the fundamental policy statement for maintaining social conciliation. Suspending the tripartite talks is not an intentional gesture made out of spite. The trade union leadership wants to hold urgent talks with the CSFR prime minister and wants to hold consultations with its international partners from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and from the International Labor Confederation. On 22 July, the CSKOZ Collegium will hold a meeting to decide on its next course of action. Today (Friday [19 July]—editor's note) we were promised that Prime Minister Marian Calfa will receive trade unionists on the morning of 23 July. They want to clear up the dispute that has arisen on account of the change to Article 10 of the General Agreement. The government acceded to the change in this Article, although the majority of its social partners disagreed with it. The trade unions feel that changes to the General Agreement should be implemented on the basis of consensus."

The spokeswoman also said that a minimum wage amounting to 2,000 korunas gross—which the government has maintained—loses its ability to motivate. It is no different from unemployment support or the lowest pension. The spokeswoman also gave an assurance that the suspension of talks in the Federal Tripartite Council should not endanger the forthcoming wages law. Following the comments procedure in the expert groups, the draft of this law is now in a form that is unacceptable to the trade unions.

Dienstbier on Lack of Interest in Foreign Projects

AU2207125491 Prague OBCANSKY DENIK in Czech 18 Jul 91 p 2

["lup"-signed report: "Lack of Interest by Our Enterprises"]

[Text] Prague—"The most significant result of our trip is the direct support of the government bodies for business with us," Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier said after his arrival from Brazil and Venezuela.

The biggest tangible success of the trip is the intergovernment contract on the delivery of a large number of streetcars to several large Brazilian cities. Negotiations have begun on several interesting projects in Venezuela. A paradox comes in, however, as the enterprises, on the one hand, complain that they cannot find markets and, on the other hand, are unable to satisfy customers' demands.

A specific example is the delivery of 16,000 tonnes of our pipes, while the Venezuelan partner needs 100,000 tonnes. Our rolling mills are unable to deliver such a quantity. Venezuela and Brazil are also interested in "any amount of powdered milk," as well as in other food. "At the same time, we find that Venezuela selected eight Czechoslovak companies and offered them the possibility to participate in a bidding contest on concrete projects and has not even received an answer."

Trade Official on Issuing Arms Export Licenses

AU2207175991 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 20 Jul 91 p 2

[Interview with Stefan Glezgo, director of a Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade department, by an "(rk)"-signed reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [LIDOVE NOVINY] Is there often a clash in our country between the interests of the armaments plants and state bodies?

[Glezgo] Of course, there are differences. The manufacturers are mainly looking to sell their products and make a profit, while the state is aware of the broader political consequences of arms sales. In this connection, I cannot agree with the claim made in your newspaper that Foreign Trade Minister Engineer J. Baksay, immediately upon entering into office in January, issued several licenses for the export of heavy weapons and then just informed the Federal Government about it. I can unequivocally declare that the minister did not approve one license for the export of heavy weapons without the prior agreement of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Naturally, the same course of action was followed in the case of our agreement with Syria when this year our ministry issued a single license for the export of tanks.

Demonstrators Detained at Gabcikovo Site

AU2307073691 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 19 July pp 1, 2

["ih, crk"-signed report: "An Island Under Siege"]

[Text] Gabcikovo—Demonstrators who occupied the roads leading to the Gabcikovo construction site yesterday were welcomed by police units. Approximately 20 demonstrators attempted to block the work on the other side of the dam. The policemen were trying to keep them out without using force. In the morning, the demonstrators were reinforced by others, some from abroad. At 1100 about 10 demonstrators were dragged out of the group of protesters and taken away in police cars.

Members of the local police unit, some of whom are not even hiding their support for the demonstrators, were replaced in several locations by reinforcements. Two detained Hungarians and two Austrians were expelled. The police disconnected a public telephone booth from which one of the ecology activists reported to the public, including LIDOVE NOVINY. A. Oelloes, head of the Zitny Ostrov region, and J. Babej, representative of the Eurochain movement, sent a letter to the chairmen of the Federal and the Slovak Assemblies and to their ecology committees, pointing out that the demands of the local population have been ignored and their human rights threatened. They request in the letter that a legislative commission be formed that would assess all potential dangers from the project. Our correspondents believe that over the weekend the construction site will be abandoned, only to be reinforced with fresh workers on Monday. Leaders of legislative parties of the Slovak National Council factions are expected to arrive at the hot spot today. They want to acquaint themselves with the impact of the project on Zitny Ostrov.

The detained demonstrators were later released.

U.S. Delegation Ends Tour of Arms Factories

AU2207140091 Prague CTK in English 1024 GMT 19 Jul 91

[Text] Bratislava July 19 (CTK)—The process of arms factories' conversion to civilian production in Czechoslovakia is only beginning, U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Donald J. Atwood told journalists today before leaving for Budapest.

Atwood headed a delegation of presidents and chief executives of big American companies on a three-day fact-finding trip which was to give them an idea of the situation in the Czechoslovak arms industry and enable them to draw up plans for the involvement of U.S. manufacturers in the conversion. The two sides agreed to meet again and discuss the plans in autumn.

According to Atwood, it is important to find progressive and modern products that could replace the manufacture of tanks, cannons, troop carriers, and other military hardware and that would have good marketing chances. Only then can investment be considered.

Atwood said the level of training and experience of the work force in the Slovak plants will be a good asset but also money and time are needed.

According to Slovak Economics Minister Jozef Belcak, Czechoslovakia would welcome cooperation of American enterprises in joint ventures as well as assistance in the introduction of management systems and drawing up comprehensive plans for a quick change from arms production to other programs.

The U.S. delegation included top executives from General Dynamics, General Motors Europe, Sikorski Aircraft, General Electric Aircraft Engines, and Avondale Industries.

Atwood met with Federal Premier Marian Calfa, Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, and Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky.

The group visited five of Slovakia's almost forty arms producing plants and the aircraft factory at Aero Vodochody outside Prague.

As Calfa told Atwood, Czechoslovakia is resolved to stop its production of heavy weapons. However, it lacks the money to do this immediately and unless new efficient programs are found, unemployment, which already tops 6 percent in Slovakia, will increase further.

Atwood said it was not the purpose of the visit to discuss Czechoslovakia's sale of 100 tanks to Syria. Czechoslovakia wants to use the money from the sale to finance new programs for its arms factories but the United States protested against the export.

FRG Treaty Not To Address Compensation Issue

AU2307162791 Prague OBCANSKY DENIK in Czech 19 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

["dp"-signed report: "The Sudeten Issue Is Taboo"]

[Text] Prague—We have been told by well-informed sources close to the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the course of further negotiations on the state treaty now under preparation between the CSFR and the FRG.

According to this information, the fifth round of talks between government delegations has been prepared and should be held in August. The treaty will be of a general nature [bude mit ramcovy charakter] and will concern all spheres of life of the two countries' inhabitants, thereby establishing the most favorable scope for the development of mutual cooperation. The document is being prepared to be a contribution to our effort toward integration and gradual incorporation into the EC. As is known, the FRG is one of the Western European nations that supports these Czechoslovak aims. Regarding Poland's effort to coordinate with our side its course of action in preparing state treaties, we were told that even though mutual information, even trilateral mutual information, exists, one cannot speak about coordination because the problems with which the Polish side deals in its relations with Germany are significantly different.

The question of Sudeten Germans and, in conjunction with this, the question of German compensation for all war damages, are not included in the talks between the two

delegations. The treaty article concerning cooperation in the area of defense will establish the mechanism of consultations in the event of the contracting parties being jeopardized or in the event of a threat to Europe. Specific cooperation in this area will then be up to the relevant ministries.

According to our source, some information on Czech-German settlement published in the Czechoslovak and German press was to serve some groups in those countries to bring pressure to bear on their governments and to force them to assume a more radical position on these issues. However, as we were told, this has had practically no influence on the course of the negotiations.

As far as the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the former GDR via the Czechoslovak territory is concerned, the situation is such that our side has proposed to the Soviet Union the use of our railroads for the transfer. However, there has been practically no response to this offer from the Soviet side. However, this issue is not a subject of the state treaty.

The document is expected to be signed this fall, provided that no unexpected reversals in the negotiations occur.

Talks on Expansion of Adria Pipeline Reported

AU2307102191 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 19 Jul 91 p 2

["(NO-yh, st)"-signed report: "Increasing the Flow of Oil From the South"]

[Text] Bratislava—Diversifying oil sources and supplies forms part of the Slovak Industry Ministry's strategy. Extending the TAL [Transalpine Line] oil pipeline from Schwechat to Slovnaft and expanding the Adria oil pipeline are being taken into consideration within the framework of this strategy. "This was also the main topic of our discussions with the Hungarian industry minister," said Minister Jan Holcik. "We discussed using Adria, commercial exchange, and broader cooperation among economic entities with our Hungarian colleague in Budapest."

Our proposal for the establishment of an international consortium to expand the Adria oil pipeline met with success. "We agreed with Minister Peter Bod that we will sign an agreement before the end of September. The consortium will expand the pipeline to transport five million tonnes of oil per annum. At the same time, it should participate in constructing emergency storage tanks with a capacity of up to 1.5 million tonnes. According to the Hungarian side, the agreement on using the oil pipeline should be a long-term one. In the consortium will be our Transpetrol shareholding company and the Hungarian OKGT [National Oil and Gas Industry Trust] company, which administers the Adria oil pipeline in the Hungarian Republic."

Experts and deputy industry ministers will meet next week and will agree on a further course of action and conditions for using the oil pipeline. As Minister Holcik said, the Americans are also interested in putting capital into the modernization project. "Following a suggestion from us, American experts have drafted a scheme for expanding Adria," said Jan Holcik. "We will also hold negotiations with the Yugoslav INA [Petroleum Refining and Sales Enterprise] company, which administers the pipeline on its territory. We would also like it to join the above-mentioned consortium. Such an international shareholding company would set a precedence in using oil. It offers us the possibility of alternative oil supplies that will stabilize our input into industry."

Conventional Arms Treaty Ratified

LD2207182791 Prague CTK in English 1522 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Prague July 22 (CTK)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel signed here on July 19 the instruments of ratification of the treaty on conventional forces in Europe, the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry announced today.

Czechoslovakia became the first of the 22 countries, which signed the document in Paris last November, to ratify it.

The treaty lays foundations of a new security system in Europe. Its implementation will considerably decrease the concentration of conventional armed forces in Europe.

Formation of New Slovak Civic Alliance Reported

AU2207135991 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 19 Jul 91 p 2

[CTK report: "New Party"]

[Text] Bratislava— A new classical democratic right-wing party is taking shape on the territory of the Slovak Republic—the Civic Party of Slovakia [Obcianska strana Slovenska) (OSS), which is a sister party of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) in the Czech Republic. The OSS was registered as a political party on 18 July 1991, in accordance with Law No. 15 of 1990. A party was thus founded that day that wants to create on the territory of the Slovak Republic a strong modern party of a conservative type. This aim is to be achieved through the unification of all rightist-oriented citizens and right-wing parties in Slovakia. The party's basic programmatic pillars are legislative democracy, a market economy, traditional values, and the federation. The federation is understood by the OSS as the formation of a functional and flexible system of power sharing between the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, and the CSFR with the aim of building a modern sociopolitical system based on the civic society and democratic institutions.

The OSS calls on all political subjects operating on the territory of the Slovak Republic—particularly on the Public Against Violence movement and members of the Christian Democratic Movement, the Democratic Party, the Hungarian Independent Initiative, the Club of Nonaligned Activists, the Human Movement, and the Movement of Czechoslovak Understanding—as well as on all democratically-minded citizens to form the Conservative Bloc of Slovakia [Konzervativny blok Slovenska] (KBS) alliance.

Former Minister Dubnicek Founds New Slovak Party

AU2207115991 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 18 Jul 91 p 2

[CTK report: "After Leaving the Democratic Party, J. Dubnicek Founded a New Party"]

[Text] Bratislava—J. Dubnicek, former Slovak Republic minister of building and construction, asked CTK to publish a statement that says, among other things: "Already several months ago, the controversial policy of the Democratic Party, which misleads its members as well as the Slovak public, brought me to the decision that I should leave it, despite my being one of those who rehabilitated the party after years of its pandering to the communists."

I do not believe this party has a future because it has been hopelessly discredited by its leadership, which follows its own goals and disregards the will of its party members. I am not leaving the political life of the Slovak Republic. Together with my close friends, we have constituted a new political party—the Social Christian Union of Slovakia.

Democratic Party Chairman Jan Holcik asked CTK to publish his position. We have selected the following: Unfortunately, since J. Dubnicek became a member of the Slovak Government, he lost contact, first partially and later altogether, with the leadership, as well as with the members of the party. Apparently disappointed from his unfulfilled ambitions in the Democratic Party, he has taken an intense dislike to the party, and today he even groundlessly cast aspersions on it before the public. Despite the fact that Mr. Dubnicek has not parted from the party like a democrat, I wish him a continuing political career.

Czech Nationalist Party To Be Formed

AU2207124891 Prague OBCANSKY DENIK in Czech 18 Jul 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The Czech National Party Forms"]

[Text] In the near future, when the 1,000 signatures needed are collected, the Czech National Party will be formed. As Miroslav Helige, Plzen member of the preparatory committee, said to CTK, it should be the only party on the Czech political scene that will have a national patriotic program and will consistently defend the interests of the Czech nation.

According to him, the events taking place in the republic indicate that if the development continued in its present vein, it would have a tragic effect on the Czech nation. The Czech representatives, according to the members of the Czech National Party preparatory committee, are incapable of taking a categoric stand to defend the interests of the nation. Therefore, like so many times in the past, the people themselves must defend from below their sovereignty, autonomy, and independence.

Dubcek's Political Affiliations Assessed

LD2207140891 Prague CTK in English 1244 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Bratislava July 22 (CTK)—Czechoslovak parliament deputy for the Public against Violence (VPN) Frantisek Sebej told journalists today that parliament chairman Alexander Dubcek belongs to neither of the two groups which emerged from the former VPN movement, i.e. the Movement for Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the VPN groups. Although Dubcek supports the HZDS movement in the press, he is neither a member of the HZDS nor does he participate in the work of the VPN group, Sebej said in referrence to Dubcek's statement yesterday that he is no longer a VPN Slovak Council member. This attitude is based on Dubcek's political leftist orientation. Sebej said Dubcek makes every effort to be a reliable chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) and therefore it is better if he dissociates himself from concrete political confrontations. Sebej praised Dubcek's cooperation with the VPN group in solving the referendum issue (the constitutional referendum law was passed by the parliament last week).

Carnogursky Comments on Slovak Politics, Unity

AU2007123791 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 17 Jul 91 pp 1, 7

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky by Frantisek Melis; place and date not given: Everything I Do Is for the Good of Slovakia"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Melis] Vladimir Meciar has not shown much affection for you and your brother, Ivan. How do you feel about his offer that following his prospective victory in the upcoming elections he would enter into a coalition with the Christian Democratic Movement but without the brothers Carnogursky?

[Carnogursky] In such an event, we are of one mind. I have several reasons for not wanting to sit in the same government with him. Vladimir Meciar is very inconsistent, and it is very difficult to work with a partner if you cannot be certain that he means what he says. After all, for example, just before his departure, he said that of all the deputies he can work best with me, and now he says that he wanted to recall me from the government first.

[Melis] How do you cope in your work with being a politician who is not liked very well in Slovakia?

[Carnogursky] It does not have any adverse effect on me, for I am convinced that what I do, I do for the benefit of Slovakia. So far, nobody has managed to disprove the correctness of my policy. I am willing at any time to have it exposed to a thorough examination, and I challenge PRAVDA readers to do just that.

[Melis] How did you feel at the time when people in front of the Slovak National Council chanted Carnogursky Mafia?

[Carnogursky] In a democratic society, the population in its entirety will probably never agree with any policy. The press, I guess, including PRAVDA, is also responsible because the coverage of the government's reconstruction was not altogether objective. Perhaps, it is also the novelty in Slovakia of two brothers being involved in politics rather than just playing hockey together.

[Melis] People say that your brother Ivan should take French leave from the political scene and go into diplomatic service.

[Carnogursky] That is not a fact, but rather a wish by some people or groups.

[Melis] You both are also leading representatives of the Christian Democratic Movement. Could you describe the present situation in the movement?

[Carnogursky] We are a movement in which a big thing is not made out of having different opinions on some issues. The Christian basis is still strong enough to preserve the fundamental unity of the movement, even if there is a current tendency to advocate more radical national slogans as well as a more radical national policy.

[Melis] Is this stream represented by Dr. Tibor Boehm?

[Carnogursky] He is among those subscribing to this current—nevertheless, I would not identify its leadership with any one person because there are several people expressing these demands. In comparison with these people, my position, as well as that of the majority of others, is much tamer and more moderate. I believe that this policy is better and more realistic, which is quite tangibly demonstrated by the events in Yugoslavia.

[Melis] Despite the statement Dr. Tibor Boehm made in SLOBODNY PIATOK, you insist that the Christian Democratic Movement is not experiencing any internal storms?

[Carnogursky] Not of such magnitude that it could split the Christian Democratic Movement.

[Melis] What is the role of Jan Klepac in this context?

[Carnogursky] He is somewhat closer to the nationally-radical wing but, until now, we have always managed to come to terms both in basic tenets and in operative principles. I am more temperate in expression than Jan Klepac is but, I repeat, it is not a physical handicap in our movement. I still am convinced that the major part of the movement is capable of uniting around me.

[Melis] Hence, one should assume that you will enter the upcoming elections as a movement, and that you are not considering a transformation into a party?

[Carnogursky] Voices to this effect have been heard, but I cannot see any practical sense in such a step. Nevertheless, it is not a principal issue.

[Melis] Do you admit that this could happen in time?

[Carnogursky] I admit it, but if this happened, it would be a purely technical change.

[Melis] Your assembly will meet in October. Do you already have some idea as to what would be the main topic of discussion?

[Carnogursky] Apparently, economic policy and constitutional issues.

[Melis] People often ask whether Jan Carnogursky is playing a clean game with Prague. Hence, will you, as the Slovak Republic prime minister and the Christian Democratic Movement chairman, insist on the current positions, or will you retreat from them because rumor has it, on the one hand, that you were bought by the Czechs, and on the other that you will handle them cleverly.

[Carnogursky] I believe that so far we have achieved what we wanted, and I would not term it handling the other side cleverly. The attitude of the Christian Democratic Movement to the talks with the Czech political representation is based on recognition and mutual consideration of both republics' interests. Therefore, the question of whether we would withdraw our previous demands is misleading, and if you expect from me the answer that we would not retreat, which might be most popular with my supporters, then you expect something that would prevent any negotiation with the Czech side. They could decide to be just as firm, and there would be no point in continuing discussions; a telephone agreement would suffice to dissolve this state. If we do not want this to happen, then I must answer your question that I would try to convince the Czech side of the advantageous nature for both sides of the solutions we propose.

[Melis] The Public Against Violence movement speaks of a federation, the Christian Democratic Movement has begun to use the term of a common state, the Slovak National Party favors an independent Slovak state, and the Movement for Democratic Slovakia prefers a confederation. Is such a dispersion of opinions held by Slovaks not harmful at a time when unity is needed?

[Carnogursky] The concepts of federation and confederation are never pure when applied in practice. The principal manifestation of a federation is that decisions of central bodies automatically bind the citizens of the republics, while in a confederation these decisions must be confirmed by republic bodies before they become binding. Hence, if the Federal constitution were ratified by the national councils first, it would be done on a typically confederal principle. If, however, the Federal Ministry of National Defense, for instance, decided on calling conscripts to the army without confirmation by national bodies, one can speak of a typically federal principle. Therefore, if I use the term a common state, I am not backing off what I had said but rather using an expression that is without a prejudice with respect to the final solution.

[Melis] How do you assess the possibility of a consensus of Slovak political forces?

[Carnogursky] I believe that a consensus—even with the Slovak National Party—is possible. I have a feeling that those who demand a confederation are not as much interested in the reduction of the powers of the common bodies, which could be done otherwise, as they are with the international recognition of Slovakia. Even if we attained a confederation, it would not mean an automatic international recognition of Slovakia. On the other hand, particularly in Slovakia, we are capable of reaching a wide-ranging agreement on domestic issues, but this has nothing to do with the first question. Slovakia must wait with the quest for the international recognition until the time of becoming a member of the European integration, and it should be done through a constructive policy of the government and of the entire political representation, and through well arranged internal relations. I believe that the most advantageous intermediate stage would be a narrower integration in the framework of Central Europe.

[Melis] Thus, what seat should Slovakia occupy in the European Community?

[Carnogursky] Slovakia does not want to have its seat outside the integrational groupings. That means, a seat like that of the Czechs, Hungarians, or Poles.

[Melis] The first to express their dissatisfaction with the government policy were farmers. It seems that Vladimir Meciar's prediction that a wave of social unrest would hit Slovakia in the fall is coming true. What does the government intend to do to eliminate the unrests?

[Carnogursky] The government is doing everything in its power to reduce the social impact of the economic situation, and at the same time also to explain to people that not only the government but nobody can deal better with the situation given. If, however, in the fall, the streets should fill with dissatisfied demonstrators, the government would see to it that laws are obeyed. I take the liberty of claiming that until now, the democratic rules for proceeding in a political system have not at all been curbed.

Carnogursky: Slovak State 'Inevitable'

LD2207160291 Prague CTK in English 1128 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Paris July 22 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Jan Carnogursky said in today's French paper "LIBERATION" that Slovakia's path towards a market economy would be quicker provided Slovakia can realise its own economic reform without the pressure by the central power.

Carnogursky, who is also chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), the strongest political force in Slovakia, described the creation of an independent Slovak state around 2000 as inevitable, stressing however the objective must be achieved in a constitutional way within the framework of the European integration process. Carnogursky acknowledged that his objectives and those of Slovak nationalist forces are practically identical but "my attitude is more progressive and more European. I am not an ally of the Slovak nationalists. I would like to be an ally of nations struggling for their national identity within future Europe", Carnogursky told the paper.

Soldiers' Group Supports Slovak Guard Proposal

AU2307103091 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 22 Jul 91 p 2

["(do)"-signed report: "The Soldiers' Association Is in Favor of a Home Guard"]

[Text] Bratislava—The Association of Slovak Soldiers Presidium has issued a statement supporting the proposal by Jan Klepac, Slovak National Council deputy chairman, for the establishment of a home guard in Slovakia. Here is a quote from the statement: "Combat units are deployed to a minimal extent in Slovakia. From a security point of view, this is absolutely insufficient for the necessary defense of its territory. Because the planned redeployment of combat units from our state's western borders to Slovakia is taking place very slowly—it almost looks like a deliberate delay (that is utterly incomprehensible from the military strategy point of view)—it is necessary to speedily resolve this situation. In view of the above-mentioned facts, the expeditious adoption of such a law is essential. We emphasize that home guard units could also be used to a considerable extent for civil defense and to assist the police in their struggle against the booming crime rate that may increase rapidly because of the expected emigration of foreigners to Slovakia."

Carnogursky on Bilateral Relations With Hungary

AU2007201091 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 18 Jul 91 p 9

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky by Laszlo Szabo Beli in the Slovak Council; date not given: "Exclusive Interview with Jan Carnogursky—We Continue To Depend on Each Other"—first paragraph is UJ MAGYARORSZAG introduction]

[Text] Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky received our correspondent in the building of the Slovak National Council (the legislature), and answered his questions on issues concerning the populations of Hungary and Slovakia. At the beginning of our interview, Jan Carnogursky declared that he was glad to have the opportunity to hold a dialogue with the Hungarian people, a dialogue he intends to continue in the future.

[Beli] You were elected prime minister of the Slovak Republic under stormy circumstances on 23 April 1991. What was the reason for this storm?

[Carnogursky] The storm was caused by the split of the Public Against Violence Movement (VPN). The VPN won the legislative elections in June 1990, but later a group led by Mr. Meciar left the movement and took the name of Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HDS).

[Beli] Things have quieted down in Slovakia since then. What is the reason?

[Carnogursky] I will answer your question from the viewpoint of the government. Things calmed down as a result of the good work carried out by the government.

[Beli] The last Soviet soldier left our countries in June 1991. The historic moment has come when we can settle our common affairs as sovereign states. In your view, what is the first thing we should do?

[Carnogursky] If I wanted to tease you, I would answer that we should first conclude the Bos-Nagymaros dam system. But let us speak seriously: We could start by analyzing our role in this part of Europe. In fact, we have already started such an analysis, and this analysis undoubtedly concludes that we have lived together through dramatic and less dramatic historic events, and we continue to depend on each other, irrespective of whether there are Soviet troops stationed here or not. This analysis can also show that, at the moment, we are unable to avoid the existing mutual conflicts, but we should declare that we will approach these conflicts genuinely and will strive to localize them exclusively as a subject for debate. In all other areas, we will strive for the best possible development of our relations.

[Beli] You visited Hungary several times prior to your election as prime minister. You met with several Hungarian politicians, and you also paid a visit to Bekescsaba, the center of the Slovak national minority in Hungary. What impressions did you have?

[Carnogursky] Visiting Bekescsaba and other Slovak communities in the Alfold area, my impression was that there were Slovaks living here who succeeded in preserving their Slovak identity for 250 years, in perfect harmony with their loyalty to the Hungarian state. However, they need support in educating their children in the Slovak language and in receiving Slovak culture in general. In coordination with the Hungarian Government, the Slovak Government wants to create the conditions for the preservation and development of our compatriots' Slovak culture.

[Beli] The Bos-Nagymaros affair is constantly on the agenda in both countries. For Hungary, a solution to this problem is neither a matter of prestige nor a political issue. This is a definitely environmental issue and, obviously, a final solution would be a relief for both sides.

[Carnogursky] For us, too, this is a technical, economic, ecological, and water management issue. The difference between the two sides lies in the fact that we have concluded at least 85 percent of the Bos project, and we have invested huge sums in this project, while you have only started work on the Nagymaros project. Just like you, we also carried out about 250 scientific studies from the beginning of the construction, studies aimed at finding out the effects of this power plant on the environment. As a whole, these studies show that it is better to finish the Bos project than to abandon it.

[Beli] Can one imagine the release of the Hungarians in Slovakia from the collective accusations formulated in Kassa [Kosice] in 1945?

[Carnogursky] The current Slovak Government does not think that its mission is to judge 45-year-old historical circumstances. However, the Slovak Government will create the conditions for historians to freely examine these and other historical circumstances. I will read the results of studies prepared by independent historians with great interest. An agreement was signed on creating a joint committee of historians on the occasion of former Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's visit to Hungary. This committee could also deal with pre-war and post-war Slovak-Hungarian relations.

[Beli] As a Catholic, what is your opinion about the Hungarian Episcopate in Komarno?

[Carnogursky] In view of the mixed Slovak-Hungarian population in Southern Slovakia, the creation of the episcopate seems problematic to me.

[Beli] What should Slovakia and Hungary do to make Hungarians feel at home in Slovakia and Slovaks feel at home in Hungary?

[Carnogursky] The members of both ethnic groups feel at home in the sense that they live in a community where their ancestors were born and buried. In addition to this, we must take a lot of small steps to support the mutual coexistence of Slovaks and Hungarians. Such steps will never end. The Slovaks in Hungary would welcome legislative approval of the national minority law as soon as possible.

[Beli] Could it be detrimental for Slovakia that bilingualism, or even trilingualism in Pozsony [Bratislava], will again be a natural thing in some areas? Could you imagine the establishment of a Hungarian university?

[Carnogursky] Bilingualism is already natural in some areas in Slovakia, and this applies to both Slovak and Hungarian villages and communities. Bilingualism has already become a fact in these places. According to statistics, more than 90 percent of Pozsony's population are Slovaks. Therefore, there is no bilingualism or trilingualism here. According to analyses carried out so far, a Hungarian university here in Slovakia would be of a lower scientific and pedagogical level than regular universities, and the Slovak Government would also be unable to create the conditions for such a university.

[Beli] In view of the recent events in Yugoslavia, how do you envisage the role of an independent Slovakia in developing the Slovak people's current way of thinking?

[Carnogursky] Your question seems too academic for me. Slovakia will play an independent role in the groups of European integration. Slovakia already decides independently on major issues that concern its own interests, including the major issue of Slovak-Hungarian relations. However, we decide on these issues in coordination with

the Federal Government in Prague, and this provides an even greater weight to these decisions.

[Beli] Your family also played a historic role. How much comes from family tradition in what you are now doing as leader of this country?

[Carnogursky] I cannot judge that. It is a fact that as a small child I heard my father speak about his past political activity. However, the British say that it takes four generations to educate a lord.

[Beli] Does the Slovak Christian Democratic Movement coordinate its policy with other Christian democratic parties and movements in Europe?

[Carnogursky] We are striving for this, and we think we can already boast of some success. The Slovak Christian Democratic Movement is a member of the European Democratic Union and of the Christian Democratic International. Through these organizations, we maintain bilateral contacts with some countries and we coordinate our policies in the framework of the given conditions.

[Beli] As a prime minister, you have already met twice with Laszlo Surjan, chairman of the Hungarian Christian Democratic People's Party.

[Carnogursky] Yes, but I met him twice only because I could not meet him more frequently. I greatly respect Laszlo Surjan and we had a very good discussion each time we met. I hope my answer will not hurt him politically.

[Beli] Do you have plans to meet with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall?

[Carnogursky] I met with the Hungarian prime minister several times at various Christian democratic events. I met him first when I was not yet a prime minister. According to protocol, the prime minister of the Slovak Republic is not on the same level with the prime minister of the Hungarian Republic because the Slovak Republic is only a part of the Federal Republic. I will probably meet with Mr. Jozsef Antall in Paris in September on the occasion of the conference of the heads of the member countries and movements of the European Democratic Union.

[Beli] Is an honest rapprochement between Hungarians and Slovaks possible?

[Carnogursky] Is there a need at all for a rapprochement between Slovaks and Hungarians? I do not think there is a relentless hatred between Slovaks and Hungarians. No doubt there were some periods in the history of the two nations that cannot be judged as friendly. However, there were also other periods: We fled together from the Tartars, we fought more or less together against the Turks, and we lived through communism together. We would like to join European integration together. Is this not enough for us to build our mutual relations pragmatically, instead of building them biblically?

SNR Accused of Revising World War II Results

AU2307102491 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 22 Jul 91 p 13

[Ivan Hudec commentary, reprinted from the No. 29 issue of the weekly NOVE SLOVO: "Guilty Or Not Guilty, It Is All the Same"]

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the debate on the government-sponsored Slovak National Council [SNR] bill on alleviating some additional property and other wrongs and on the jurisdiction of Slovak Republic state administration bodies in the area of out-of-court rehabilitation, the Slovak National Council discussed a special article settling the compensation claims of persons who had been forcibly deported to the USSR in the years 1944 to 1946. A provision designed to prevent compensation claims by the category of people tried and sentenced at the Nuremberg trial was, however, deleted from the draft at the recommendation of Deputy Pirovits from the Hungarian Independent Initiative!

What did the Slovak National Council delete or, more accurately, whom do we compensate following this decision?

a) members of the former Slovak State's Army who fought against the allied armies after 29 August 1944;

b) members of other armed groups who fought against the allied armies after 29 August 1944;

c) members of the German and Hungarian Armies!

By adopting the above legal norm, the present "peculiar" Slovak (?) legislature became a European rarity. Within the framework of its minimal possibilities and powers, it actually revised some of the results of World War II and placed the allied troops of the United States, the Soviet Union, France, and England at the level of the fascist armies of Germany and Hungary or of the considerable number of their members in Slovakia. [passage omitted]

It is now clear to me why the Slovak National Council resists tooth and nail the declaration of 29 August [day of the outbreak of the Slovak National Uprising] as the national day of the Slovak Republic. The statements by pseudo-historians that the Slovak National Uprising was directed against Slovak statehood and not against fascist bestiality are beginning to frighten me.

Agriculture Official on Grain Crisis Solution

LD2207134191 Budapest MTI in English 1248 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Budapest, July 22 (MTI)—It looks as though there will soon be a solution to the current grain crisis, Gyorgy Rasko, state secretary at the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, told MTI's correspondent on Monday. Ministry forecasts indicate that farms here will manage to sell the entire grain crop, this year expected to be in the region of 6 million tonnes. Wholesale purchase contracts concluded so far affect 2.5 million tonnes of wheat, with the wholesale price averaging out at 5,700 forints a tonne.

Because of this year's abundant crop, the Hungarian Government intends to lower the minimum price of wheat it had previously fixed, from 5,500 forints per tonne to 5,000 forints a tonne, and is ready to buy 600,000 tonnes of wheat at that price, as emergency stockpiles. Farms themselves will use approximately 1.3 million tonnes of wheat as fodder.

The ministry is suggesting that wheat exports to the USSR of up to 1.3 million tonnes be given 100-percent state guarantees. The Hungarian Agriculture Ministry understands that the Soviet market is likely to pay almost 90 dollars a tonne for Hungarian wheat.

Talks concerning a possible Iranian order for 300,000 tonnes of wheat this year, and an Egyptian request for 500,000 tonnes, have made considerable headway. For orders above such amounts, the government is keen to resist all demands for export subsidies from farmers, Rasko said.

Delegate Comments on CSCE Minorities' Talks

AU2207141791 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 20 Jul 91 p 3

[Telephone interview with Chief Government Adviser Istvan Zalatnay, member of the Hungarian delegation at the recent CSCE Conference on National Minorities in Geneva, by Katalin Decsi; from Geneva on 19 July: "The Geneva Conference Was Successful"—first paragraph is NEPSZAVA introduction]

[Text] Considering the circumstances, Istvan Zalatnay sees the Geneva Conference on National Minorities as successful. We telephoned Zalatnay after the closing session of the conference. He immediately got to the point:

[Zalatnay] This conference was organized in a period that can be characterized as interim from several points of view. The handling of national minority affairs is going through a serious change, and the CSCE is facing restructuring. We cannot forget, either, that the events in the SFRY influenced the conference's possibilities. We certainly could not expect this conference to resolve the situation of national minorities in one attempt. The Hungarian delegation is not satisfied with what we achieved in the end.

[Decsi] Were you able to accept a closing document?

[Zalatnay] On 18 July, it was still uncertain whether there would be a closing document that went beyond formalities, but in the end, we did draft a closing document. In fact, the delegates approved a variant that was advantageous for us, a document that said a lot. The Hungarian delegation's consistent stance played a significant part in this.

[Decsi] What are the main points of the document?

[Zalatnay] One can sense a new approach in the document, and I find this extremely important. In the past, people clearly based themselves on abstract human rights and tried to break these down for national minorities. This document stresses the need to pay attention to various concrete situations. In two cases, the document states that particular attention has to be given to a specific issue in nascent democracies—in other words, in Central and Eastern Europe—because the function of national minority issues is different here than in Western Europe.

The closing document also states that CSCE observers can take part in various elections and visit communities that are inhabited by national minority groups. The closing document also mentions border cooperation, which was suggested by the Pentagonale and Poland. This is particularly important for Hungary because a large part of the Hungarian national minority abroad lives along our borders.

[Decsi] Were any important proposals left out of the closing document?

[Zalatnay] There were several such proposals. It was not this conference's role to create a special mechanism to verify how CSCE principles are applied in certain countries. The impending Moscow conference on the human dimension will deal with this issue. The Moscow conference will very probably also deal with the U.S. proposal to set up a goodwill mechanism. According to the U.S. proposal, in case of conflict, the CSCE or the affected country can ask for a high-level delegation to take goodwill measures in an affected area.

Hungary and France submitted a joint proposal that stated (among other things) that particular attention had to be given to those groups that have become national minorities in the 20th century as a consequence of redrawn borders. Their situation is completely different than the situation of those minorities that have built their state together with the majority population for centuries.

[Decsi] What did the delegates think of Hungarian practices?

[Zalatnay] Only the U.S. delegation made a comment. They referred to a statement made by President Arpad Goncz, where the president stated that the situation of Gypsies was one of our most serious problems. We recognized the fact that there is prejudice against Gypsies in Hungary and that there is still a lot to be accomplished in order to stop this prejudice. All this shows that although we fulfill CSCE requirements, international rules only represent a minimum. Even if we comply with these rules, problems remain unsolved. I would like to point out that this was the first time that the CSCE found out about Roma [Gypsy] problems.

[Decsi] Did you deal with the situation of the Hungarian national minority abroad?

[Zalatnay] We had progressive and constructive talks with the CSFR delegation. This is all very encouraging for the future because it proves that the CSFR takes CSCE requirements seriously and that it is not averse to regular talks with Hungary.

Unfortunately, this did not apply to the Romanian delegation. They answered Hungarian questions in a rather sharp tone of voice that is unusual in diplomacy. They rejected everything, even though they were unable to refute the factual content of our statements.

Border Guards Deny Persecution of Romanians

AU2207124991 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 19 Jul 91 p 3

[Andrej Kiss report: "Are We Persecuting Romanians in Hungary?"]

[Text] Several reports have recently appeared in the Romanian press about the persecution of Romanian citizens in Hungary. An unpleasant incident took place a few days ago, but it did not involve Romanians in Hungary, but rather, Hungarians in Romania. As usual, we have to refute some allegations made in Bucharest.

Forty people from a group of 60 Romanian citizens who were deported last weekend took revenge two kilometers from the border crossing at Nagylak and attacked four Hungarian cars. Colonel Alexandru Iacob made a statement on the event and said that the Hungarian authorities were also responsible for the event because they did not give advance notice to their Romanian colleagues about the deportation of this group.

Interviewed by our correspondent, Colonel Attila Krisan, deputy spokesman for the Hungarian Interior Ministry's Border Guards, firmly refuted the allegations that appeared in the Romanian press. The deputy spokesman told us: "We always tell the Romanian side in advance about the time when we are going to hand people over, and we tell them the number and the names of the deportees." One more remark on this affair: As usual, the whole incident is not the commenting colonel's business. There is a striking Romanian domestic policy background to the incident.

Talking about the persecution of foreign citizens in Hungary, Lieutenant Colonel Janos Zubek, spokesman for the Hungarian Interior Ministry's Border Guards, added: "In collaboration with the police, we do chase Romanian citizens in our country, but only if they are staying in Hungary illegally, if they are criminals, or if they are border violators."

According to the most recent 24-hour statistics compiled on 18 July, nine people tried to cross the border into Hungary illegally, and three of these people were Romanians. However, as many as 60 people were caught trying to illegally cross the border out of Hungary. Out of this considerable number, 52 people were Romanian citizens.

Janos Zubek informed us: "We have already had 13,000 similar cases this year. Statistics show that three quarters of these border violators are Romanians. However, nobody persecutes Romanian tourists or Romanians who arrive with valid travel documents. They are treated in exactly the same way as people arriving from any other country in the world."

Democratic Forum Membership 'Just Under 40,000'

AU2207125591

[Editorial Report] Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian on 19 July on page 5 carries a 700-word interview with Imre Furmann, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, by Cseke, on the membership of the main governing party, under the headline: "Our Membership Is 40,000 Strong."

In the MAGYAR NEMZET interview, Furmann is asked to confirm or deny reports that the membership of the Hungarian Democratic Forum has dropped. Furmann explains that the Hungarian Democratic Forum's membership "has remained practically unchanged over the past six months." Asked about the exact number of Hungarian Democratic Forum members in the country, Furmann replies that the party's "membership is just under 40,000." Nevertheless, Furmann concedes that "only 30 percent of the Hungarian Democratic Forum's members take an active part in political life nowadays."

Reportage on Goncz Visit to Italy

WA2207183991

For reportage on the visit by President Arpad Goncz to Italy, including reports on his talks with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, please see the Italy & Vatican City section of the 22 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Social-Democracy's Miller Discusses USSR Talks

LD2307083791 Warsaw PAP in English 2116 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Moscow, July 22—General Secretary of the Social-Democracy of the Republic of Poland (SDRP) Leszek Miller voiced concern over regress in Polish-Soviet economic cooperation and trade, following his meeting with Soviet Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev here on Monday [22 July]. Miller said that the SDRP did not share illusions about the possibilities of opening Western markets for Poland and that is why it came out for maintaining broad cooperation with the USSR. Seeking the ways of animating economic cooperation through an access to the absorptive Soviet market is not only one of the ways of overcoming recession in Poland but also an important element of playing an active role in the process of European integration by Poland, he said. Leszek Miller is head of the SDRP delegation, now on a visit here at the invitation from the CPSU CC [Central Committee]. Polish Social-Democrats met also Deputy of CPSU General Secretary Vladimir Ivashko.

Media Reports of Zalewski Visit to U.S. Attacked

LD2207185591 Warsaw PAP in English 1757 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Warsaw, July 22—At a press conference here on Monday [22 July], Lech Kaczynski, minister of state at the Presidential Chancellery termed media reports on the recent visit paid to Washington by Secretary of State Maciej Zalewski "a pyramid of distortions."

Secretary of State at the President's Chancellery Slawomir Siwek told newsmen that this was a manipulated press campaign aimed to weaken the authority of the president of the Republic, undermine the very good relations between Poland and the U.S., and introduce elements of psychosis and untruth in the electoral campaign, Siwek said. While in Washington Zalewski was reported to have made suggestions concerning changes in the Polish Government, and touch upon matters that he was not authorised to tackle in his talks with U.S. officials.

Newsmen taking part in the conference were shown a transcript of recorded statements made by Zalewski in Washington.

NATO Commander Interviewed on Visit

LD2207183791 Warsaw PAP in English 1637 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Brussels, July 22—In an exclusive interview for PAP General John Galvin, supreme commander of the NATO Allied Forces in Europe favourably evaluated the new model of Polish Armed Forces presented to him by Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, Gen. Zdzislaw Stelmaszuk.

Gen. Stelmaszuk visited NATO headquarters recently and acquainted Gen. Galvin with the Polish plans to reorganize the structure and command system of the Polish Armed Forces. Galvin found the meeting with the Polish guest very useful.

As for the planned structural changes, Gen. Galvin said that the most important issue is the coordination between the armed forces and the authorities, that is both the government and Parliament.

The main political responsibility rests on the state, while the military machine is only an instrument of the state's policy. The political leaders, being responsible to the Polish nation, must equip the Army with means enabling it to fulfil its mission, that is ensure security.

Referring to the Polish concept of defensive strategy, Galvin said the choice is Poland's sovereign privilege. In every case, it would be useful for Poland to consider one departing from the structures of the former Warsaw Treaty towards a more universal structure serving security.

Asked for his opinion on the issue of security of the young Eastern and Central European democracies which want NATO to grant them security guarantees, Galvin said that during the past 12 months the Atlantic Alliance made a big step to ensure security and meet requirements in this respect, and gave expression to this in its public statements. He referred to NATO's public declarations, above all the ones of London and Copenhagen.

Inquired whether military contacts and cooperation between NATO and the countries of Eastern and Central Europe will not be hampered by the deep-rooted distrust and traditional "enemy image" Galvin said that no such problem emerged during his conversation with Stelmaszuk. On the contrary, Gen. Stelmaszuk proved to be a good example of what Gen. Galvin called a flexible approach.

NATO has adopted a strategy which breaks off with confrontation of the cold war times and in this new situation it strives to counteract crises. This means a much wider exchange of information, both military and political. The Atlantic Alliance has just embarked upon this road, Gen. Galvin said.

Sole-Provider Army Conscripts To Be Released

LD2207194891 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1800 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] All sole providers of the family who have been conscripted since 5 February and whose deferment of military service was withdrawn will be immediately released from the Army, the Ministry of Defense press spokesman said this afternoon.

TU Leader Discusses Situation With Walesa

LD2207162291 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1300 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] The situation in the Solidarity trade union and in Poland, especially in the context of the autumn parliamentary elections, was assessed by Lech Walesa during a Belweder breakfast with Marian Krzaklewski, chairman of the NSZZ [Independent Self-Governing Trade Union] Solidarity. The president supported the idea of Solidarity to put forward its own candidates in the elections. Thanks to its own representatives in the highest legislative body, trade unionists will be able, according to Lech Walesa, not only to protect the rights of employees but also to participate in the construction of a new Polish democracy.

Marian Krzaklewski stated that in the present political situation in Poland, where the highest representative body is the result of the contract election and the president enjoys nationwide acceptance as a result of the general election, the Solidarity trade union's stance is that blemishing an authority which has social acceptance backfires at our own, Polish interests.

Ursus Tractor Firm Bankrupt; Bielecki Comments

LD2207210491 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 2025 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Ursus has been bankrupt since March. It transpires that it is entirely financially insolvent and that the workforce will not receive its wages for July. Production losses since the start of the year have reached 600 billion zloty.

The Art-B Company, which signed an agreement with Ursus for the purchase of tractors in April, did not judge that the enterprise was in such great difficulities. It still declares its help and guarantees the sales abroad of 4,000 tractors a month, but sets a condition that the continuity of production must be guaranteed. The chairman of the Solidarity enterprise has accused the Ministry of Industry of not having intervened, despite having information about the worsening situation of Ursus. A new management was appointed on 2 July. A meeting has taken place behind closed doors to assess the situation, to which Prime Minister Beilecki was invited.

[Begin Bielecki recording] Well, we surely have here an example of economic incompetence unprecedented in our country, not to say sabotage, a lack of competence by tens of people who treated their obligations in a careless way, at various levels. The newly chosen management stands in an almost lost position. If we are to function in such a way, then there is quite simply a question of reforms in this state being undermined. [end recording]

Bielecki Discusses Regionalization With Silesians

LD2207185391 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki has been speaking to representatives of two Silesian associations, the Movement for Silesian Autonomy from Rybnik, and the Upper Silesian Union from Katowice, on the subject of the regionalization of Poland. At this meeting, Pawel Musiol from the Movement for Silesian Autonomy said that, in his opinion, the division of Poland into regions ought to be preceded by the strengthening of self-government, above all, parish self-government. According to deputy Jerzy Wuttke of the Upper Silesian Union, Poland's future constitution should clearly define the principles for the division of authority between the central and regional authorities. Deputy Wuttke also said that Silesians would strive for the creation of an autonomous region with its own legislative and executive authority, and its own treasury.

At the meeting with the prime minister, it was decided that delegations from regional associations would meet in Warsaw at the beginning of August, in order to work out a joint declaration on the regionalization of Poland.

Poles Losing Interest in Elections

LD2207161191 Warsaw PAP in English 1151 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Warsaw, July 22—The prolonged dispute over the election law did not add to the Poles' interest in parliamentary elections scheduled for October 27. On the contrary, only 37 per cent of the respondents to the latest CBOS poll voiced intention to go to the polls while in April 50 per cent declared such will, the RZECZPOSPOLITA daily reported on Monday [22 July].

The poll, carried out by the public opinion sounding centre CBOS this July 12-14 showed a 5-per cent fall in the number of supporters of the Democratic Union (UD) which continues to lead the pre-electoral ranking list while the number of those backing the Centre Alliance (PC) remained practically unchanged as compared to figures recorded in May and June.

According to the poll, only post-communist forces such as the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ), the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland (SDRP) and the Party "X" won larger electorate in July.

The Polish Peasant Union (PSL) lost its position of the strongest peasant party finding itself among less-important political groupings mainly due to the split within the PSL and the whole peasant movement. Under such circumstances, the Solidarity of Private Farmers became the only significant political force of the Polish countryside, with its odds doubled, as poll showed.

In another sounding test, sponsored by the ZYCIE WARSZAWY daily and parliamentary floor groups, 21 per cent of the respondents said the president was right

in the dispute over the election bill while 23 per cent thought the Sejm (lower house) should be the winner. Forty-one per cent had no opinion on the matter, ZYCIE WARSZAWY wrote.

KKO's Najder Cited on Electoral Pact Plan

PM2307100691 Lodz GLOS PORANNY in Polish 17 Jul 91 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Zdzislaw Najder, chairman of the National Citizens' Committee, KKO, by Henryk Sroczynski; place and date not given]

[Text] [Sroczynski] What is the idea behind the proposal—made at the National Citizens' Committee's latest session—to set up an election compact between political partners?

[Najder] The concept of a proposal of this kind emerged after the address delivered by Counselor Jan Olszewski at a recent KKO meeting devoted to a campaign against corruption, the need to purge the state apparatus, and the question of completing the process of political transformations in Poland. The session's presidium was authorized to hold talks on the possibility of creating such a compact. We believe that a common platform could accommodate the following elements: Citizens' Committees; the peasant movement; the Solidarity trade union (or, at least, certain regional Solidarity structures); the Center Accord; and other groups. We have an open-ended formula for our proposal.

[Sroczynski] Will the compact represent a presidential election bloc?

[Najder] The proposed principles on which the compact is to be based do not suggest that it will be a presidential camp. The fact that the compact could be formed from the political milieus which supported Lech Walesa in the presidential election does not necessarily mean that we want to create a presidential party. Nor do I expect that any of the parties joining the compact will want to lose its political identity. Certainly the Center Alliance has no intention of disappearing, nor does the Solidarity trade union wish to merge with the Center Alliance. We could only be united with respect to our major goals: putting the state in order and overcoming the present impasse that is paralyzing the economic reform process. The level of public approval for the strategies being applied in the sphere of national economy is very low; on the other hand, the extent of the sacrifices which the state expects society to suffer is very high. We will propose certain changes in the attitude to our national economy in order to facilitate a successful breaking of this impasse. For instance, we are opposed to the policy of forcing the privatization process mainly by provoking bankruptcy in enterprises; nor do we endorse the idea of forcing transformations in the profile of Polish farming communities by a rapid and drastic lowering of farmers' income levels.

[Sroczynski] But you will not deny that the president clearly leans in one specific direction...

[Najder] There are two problems here. First, we must be aware that, since he supports the campaign for putting state affairs in order, the president identifies with the campaign's aims, not with any particular party. Consequently, his identification is not with organizational structures. Second, we should take a broader look at the whole issue. Presidents in France or the United States are linked to political parties and, though while in office they are directed by the interests of the majority, that is, the state, this does not mean that they cannot declare their own political sympathies.

[Sroczynski] Many people believe that the president would like to command greater power.

[Najder] In my opinion this is just deliberate scaremongering. Throughout the past year we were warned that Lech Walesa was a power-mad dictator. After the election it became obvious that he did not intend to reach for any additional powers...

[Sroczynski] But today we are talking more and more often about the need to strengthen presidential power...

[Najder] The Constitution does indeed restrict the president's role within the state. Consequently, many insist that we should consider carefully whether this situation is in the state's interests. At the same time, they stress that everywhere else in the world where the president is chosen in a general election, he is given quite considerable powers. In the present situation in our country, the fact that our president was elected in a free general election makes him a fundamental element of the structure of the Third Republic. He is entrusted with particular responsibility, and expectations vested in him are also very high. Unfortunately, certain critics allege that he is ready to break the law or rule by decree, though he has never attempted to secure the right to do the latter. I believe that these accusations, which constitute a form of political struggle, are very damaging for our state.

[Sroczynski] A whole spectrum of political forces are preparing to contest the election, including the postcommunist bloc. Do you perceive them as a threat?

[Najder] They have already prepared their campaign quite thoroughly. The result of their strategy was the delay in setting the election date. In my opinion, the election should have taken place last May. A fall election will take place against a background of a much worse economic and social situation. Thus, we have lost several months already—a time which postcommunist forces have used to mobilize themselves even further. Certain developments in the peasant movement also point to links with these forces.

[Sroczynski] Are they not merely securing a defensive position for themselves?

[Najder] I do not believe so: They are on the offensive. They believe that they can reclaim the lost terrain in the

economic sphere, and they also harbor considerable political aspirations. They want to play a decisive role in the future Parliament.

[Sroczynski] In your opinion, what kind of scenario will unfold during the next few months?

[Najder] It is very hard to forecast scenarios now. However, I believe that there is a chance that we will organize an election compact which can provide a firm basis for the future government by securing some 50 percent of votes in an eventual election. But this will require a tremendous effort and a tremendous input of goodwill and sacrifice. It will also require that we give up a great many personal and group ambitions. If we are to work in coalition, we must remain loyal to one another. I think that we will be perfectly able to secure that 50 percent of the votes, provided that we are fully aware of the colossal amount of work and sacrifice involved over the next few months.

IMF, EBRD Missions Visit Bucharest

AU2207201391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1835 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 22/7/1991—Monday, July 22, a mission of the International Monetary Fund arrived in Bucharest to look into the performance criteria included in the stand-by arrangement concluded by Romania with the IMF on June 30, 1991.

The mission is led by the director for Romania of the Central and East European Department of the International Monetary Fund, Mr. Moshin Khan.

On their five-day mission, the IMF experts will conduct talks with the governor of the National Bank of Romania, Mugur Isarescu, as well as with Ministers Eugen Dijmarescu, Adrian Severin, Victor Stanculescu and other dignitaries.

A mission of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] headed by Klaus Hoffert, EBRD counselor and representative for Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, arrived in Bucharest on Monday for a five-day visit.

The delegation came to Romania to discuss and analyse the EBRD programme for assistance to Romania in accordance with the general banking strategy of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for Central and Eastern Europe.

Tuesday, July 23, the EBRD mission will tackle specific proposals for projects advanced by the Romanian Development Agency following the December 1990 visit to Romania of the EBRD president, Jacques Attali. The spheres suggested refer to agriculture, energy, transport, infrastructure and environmental protection.

Opposition Walks Out of Senate 22 Jul

AU2207200091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1749 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 22/7/1991—No result was reached after several days of negotiations and conciliations between the FSN [National Salvation Front] majority group in the Senate, and the National Liberal Party, the Christian-Democratic National Peasant Party, the Ecologist Movement, the Ecologist Party, the Party of the National Unity of the Romanians. Consequently many opposition parties left the Parliament hall Monday, 22 July. The Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania voted against the continuation of debates on the privatisation bill, but did not walk out.

With 5 pros, 29 cons and 11 abstentions, Romania's Senate decided that debates be continued of this important bill, the first article of which was validated together with the opposition.

Ex-King Mihai Interviewed on Romanian TV

AU2207174391 Bucharest Programul Unu Radio Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] In a telephone interview from Switzerland for the "Come With Us" program broadcast on the second channel of Romanian Television tonight, ex-King Mihai I of Romania answered several questions about the history of Peles Castle and the memories linking him to that place. On this occasion, ex-King Mihai I made the following statement, quote: I was born in Romania. I am Romanian, I am a Romanian citizen, and I have never renounced my Romanian citizenship. Therefore, I will never ask for something I never gave up—unquote.

At the end of the interview, the former sovereign of Romania conveyed the following message to the Romanian people, quote: Every day, all I do is think of my country, of your country, and of all Romanians there. I know the situation is difficult. I really wish you all the best and, with God's help, may things improve considerably for everybody, for me and for you too.

Plesu on National Minority Culture, Hungarians

AU2307094491 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 20 Jul 91 p 17

[Interview with Minister of Culture Andrei Plesu by Peter Mag in Bucharest, in July: "Let Us Not Get Bogged Down in the 19th Century!"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Mag] What position does minority culture hold in Romania's cultural life?

[Plesu] I do not like the word minority. Adjectives like majority or minority do not apply to culture. Culture is either of good quality or bad quality. Good quality culture can even be provided by a minority consisting of two people. Ilf and Petrov formed a minority, yet they "produced" culture of really good quality. So I do not like that adjective or term. Our ministry is very attached to the culture of those population groups with whom we share this land. That is precisely why we created the national minority directorate in the ministry. We primarily believe that coexistence is our inevitable future, so if we take steps in this direction, we are progressing toward a guaranteed future. If we did not take these steps, it would mean that we are bogged down in the 19th century and incapable of becoming modern people. [passage omitted]

I think that minority cultural enclaves are very important because they have unique characteristics. They are not simply the surviving cultural reservations of a different country in foreign surroundings; they are very integral and original formations. If I may put it like this, these cultures are unique, and their fate and characteristics are very determined. [passage omitted]

As far as the more concrete aspects of the question are concerned, it is important to note that we have again succeeded in securing state support for national minority periodicals. These publications have difficulties making a

profit in small communities, and that is why the government decided to publish them. At the same time, I think that in practice, in real life, the situation is much better than what authority institutions would have you believe, the way they manipulate. In other words, I think that the fuss made in Parliament is bigger than the actual situation calls for. I have had a few opportunities of finding out that coexistence and understanding are much better on location; there is greater calm there. Naturally, we have all witnessed unfortunate incidents because there are excited and slightly fanatical people on both sides, and at the moment, nationalist overtones are being heard all around the world. I find these overtones dangerous. They are probably a reaction to the international slogans that used to be chanted in the name of communism in the old days, and which are now being canted in the name of Europeanism. Our peoples have to preserve their own characteristics; European integration will not fare well if we lose our identity. If we put too much emphasis on identity, we will become provincial, but if we overemphasize integration, we will lose our names and our faces. So we need a balance, and national minorities can be perfect laboratories for this balance because they are wonderful bridges between peoples; too much assimilation or exaggerated isolation damage them equally.

[Mag] How would you qualify cultural cooperation between Romania and Hungary? [passage omitted]

[Plesu] Our links with Hungary started excellently last year. One of my first visits was to Budapest in February 1990. I held talks and signed an agreement with the Hungarian minister of the time, Ferenc Glatz. We decided on several joint actions, which we have since completed, so I can safely say that despite certain events and tensions at that time, we made more progress than expected. I also had the opportunity to meet today's Hungarian Minister of Culture and Education Bertalan Andrasfalvy in Vienna and in Leon. In Leon, we decided to organize a meeting for the renewal of talks. So the circumstances are good, and I truly hope that in the cultural sphere, we will be able to halt the demons that hold us in suspense on the political arena. I hope that we can prove that the predictions that politicians have made for the long term have already come true in the area of culture. In the long term, I am an optimist.

[Mag] In December 1990, Hungarian press attention was caught by a statement that you made, Minister Plesu, at the Bucharest vernissage of a Hungarian fine arts exhibition. In this statement, you distanced yourself from the nationalist manifestations witnessed at some festivities in Gyulafehervar [Alba Iulia] on 1 December.

[Plesu] I have to tell you that I did not stop and think for very long. It was a spontaneous reaction, not by the minister that I was and still am, but by an intellectual who is annoyed when herd instincts jeopardize real values, an intellectual who is annoyed by brutal reactions. I am annoyed by an obtuseness that has nothing to do with the concept of value, an obtuseness that can endanger much more important things that have eternity on their side. [passage omitted]

Hungarian Minority Problem Assessed

LD2207194591 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1630 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Interview with (Traian Kebeleu), leader of Romanian delegation to international conference on minorities, by Levente Sukosd, at conclusion of the conference, in Geneva; date not given—recorded; (Kebeleu) speaks in Romanian with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Excerpts] [Sukosd] Considering the closing documents of Copenhagen and Geneva, can it be said that some development has been achieved in the issues of minorities?

[(Kebeleu)] In a certain sense, yes. The Copenhagen closing statement was reassessed here, and minority issues were rediscussed within the framework of human rights.

[Sukosd] Is there a chance that the duties accepted here will be carried out?

[(Kebeleu)] It is obvious that these are not included in the issues of international law. No state can be forced to keep them. It is the same in the case of the statement signed in Helsinki, too.

[Sukosd] Did you reach some solution to the tensions in Hungarian-Romanian relations?

[(Kebeleu)] The aim of this meeting was not to directly influence Hungarian-Romanian relations. However, we made use of the possibility, that is, we tried to make use of it. We tried to clear to some extent the question in connection with people belonging to national minorities living in Romania. Already, in the first week of the conference, we held an approximately one-hour long discussion with Mr Geza Entz and other members of the Hungarian delegation. Naturally, we could not clear every question.

[Sukosd] If I am right, you could not agree on any issue at all.

[(Kebeleu)] I repeat, we did not set this as our aim. I was not authorized for this. I do not know what the case was with the Hungarians. We came here to exchange ideas, information, views on a friendly basis. So we were not authorized to hold talks, to clarify things. So I was completely surprised by the speech of (Istvan Zalatnay), member of the Hungarian delegation, at the committee session. After the talks the Hungarian delegation did not warn me that they were dissatisfied. It is true, I noted the differences in opinion. What surprised me was the public statement, especially because the atmosphere was calm at the beginning of the conference.

[Sukosd] Would the Hungarian-Romanian bilateral talks have ended differently if the Hungarian delegation had not publicly raised the issue of the Hungarian minorities?

[(Kebeleu)] I do not know for sure, but it is a fact that it did not help the conference. I do not know what all this was good for.

[Sukosd] You said in your public answer that the Hungarian speech was openly anti-Romanian.

[(Kebeleu)] I said that it created prejudice toward Romania and the Romanian state at this meeting. In fact, against the Romanian minorities, too. This is what I said. [passage omitted]

[Sukosd] I saw some publications and books in English and French on the bad situation and oppression of the Romanian minority living in Hungary. Your delegation was distributing these here at the conference. Do you agree with the statements of the authors of these books?

[(Kebeleu)] After the Hungarian speech, we had to distribute these books among the 35 delegations. It is obvious that we, on behalf of the government, do not agree with the contents of the books. What justified this step? Why did we give out these books? Well, to point out that the issue of minorities is not settled anywhere. There are problems everywhere, even in Hungary. We know, and I believe you know as well, what the situation of the Romanian minorities is in Hungary. I wanted to prove that before the delegations agree with either side, they have to think that there are political interests behind almost every statement. I wanted to indicate that if they are really interested in the Romanian situation they have to be more objective.

[Sukosd] What do you think of the fact that in their speeches both the Austrian and the U.S. delegations spoke of the bad situation of minorities in Romania?

[(Kebeleu)] Naturally there are problems, but to state that the situation has not improved since Copenhagen or since the revolution, that the defense of minorities has become worse, well, I think that is an overstatement.

Federal

Presidency Adopts Ohrid Declaration

LD2207203391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2006 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—The presidents of the six Yugoslav republics have endorsed the content of the Ohrid Declaration, a peace document which envisages the disarming of all paramilitary formations. The Ohrid Declaration insists on the demobilization of the reserve forces in Croatia. It also envisages that the armed forces in Croatia be reduced to their regular numbers, Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov announced at a news conference in Ohrid this evening.

The Ohrid Declaration envisages that after the disarming and demobilization in Croatia the Army will withdraw into barracks and the Brioni declaration will be implemented, especially the part providing for EC observers to monitor and control peace in Croatia.

The expanded session of the SFRY Presidency, according to Gligorov, will end tonight with an agreement on where and when it will resume work to consider the other two items on today's agenda. It was agreed that the Federal Executive Council proposal on the functioning of the Yugoslav community during the three-month moratorium will be sent to all republics for consultations, setting up an expert group.

Asked to comment on today's session of the SFRY Presidency, Kiro Gligorov said "we can be partially satisfied," that is, expectations are only partially fulfilled.

Gligorov told journalists the SFRY Presidency will hold an emergency session tonight in Ohrid. The session will agree on the implementation of the Ohrid Declaration on flashpoints of crisis in the country.

Ohrid Session Ends

LD2207233691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2314 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—The expanded session of the SFRY Presidency, held in Ohrid, finished just after midnight [2200 GMT]. The text of the final version of the "the Ohrid declaration" is not known yet. TANJUG has learned that the public will be informed about it tomorrow morning at a news conference to be held by SFRY Presidency Stipe Mesic.

Participants of the Ohrid meeting have started to leave the town. After Croatian President Franjo Tudjman left the session due to the seriousness of the situation in that republic, the president of Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, Alija Izetbegovic, left Ohrid just after midnight.

Mesic: Serbia 'Most Responsible' for Situation

LD2307105791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0923 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 23 Jul (TANJUG)—Serbia is most responsible for the present situation in the country, stated SFRY Presidency President Stipe Mesic at today's news conference in Ohrid.

Mesic said that it must be understood that problems can be resolved only by negotiations and talks, and in no way by war—which is still something not everyone understands. There will be further battles, Mesic stated, but war will not occur. Mesic believes that under the pressure of domestic and international opinion, a dialogue must begin.

Army Cannot Serve as Arbiter

LD2307105991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0918 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 23 Jul (TANJUG)—President Tudjman and myself have distanced ourselves from the Ohrid declaration because it does not tackle the essential question—the return of the Army to barracks. This was stated today by SFRY Presidency [President] Stipe Mesic at a news conference in Ohrid.

The Army cannot be an arbiter in the process of resolving political problems, Mesic stressed. He added that it is the deployment of the Army that encourages those who are establishing parallel government bodies through illegal and illegitimate means. The Army makes this possible by its presence, Mesic believes.

'Illusion' of Expanded Territories

LD2307110591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0916 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 23 Jul (TANJUG)—It was dramatic at the expanded session of the SFRY Presidency yesterday, especially after we heard about the fighting in Croatia, said SFRY Presidency President Stipe Mesic at a news conference today at Ohrid's Park Hotel.

Mesic announced that the SFRY Presidency will meet again in a day or two and soon in its expanded line-up. He added that it is an illusion to expect that territories could be expanded on the ruins of Yugoslavia at the expense of other republics, as is happening in Croatia now. This is impossible to achieve except by means of a large-scale war with seas of human casualties, Mesic said.

Army Spokesman on Army's Departure From Slovenia

AU2007181091 Paris AFP in English 1734 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, July 20 (AFP) — The Yugoslav federal military will withdraw unconditionally from the breakaway republic of Slovenia, a military spokesman said here Saturday [20 July].

"The Federal Army will leave Slovenia, regardless of the future behavior of the Slovenian Government," said Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandar Mihailovic, spokesman for one of the two Federal Army corps stationed in the republic.

The statement was the first reaction by a senior military official to the Yugoslav Presidency's order Thursday for all federal forces to leave the republic within three months.

Lt. Col. Mihailovic said the departure would be "unconditional," but did not use the word "withdrawal," in line with the presidential order which referred only to an "end of stationing."

A spokesman for the Second Army Corps stationed here, Lt. Col Mihajl Terzic, said that "a plan for the departure will be drawn up very quickly."

Lt. Col. Mihailovic's corps is stationed at Maribor near the Austrian border while Lt. Col. Terzic's formation is based here in the Slovenian capital.

Army Withdrawal From Slovenia to Begin 25 Jul

LD2307044891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0428 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 23 (TANJUG)—All Yugoslav People's Army units are to leave the Republic of Slovenia, northwestern Yugoslavia, starting with July 25, Lt. Col. Gen. Andrija Raseta, deputy commander of the 5th Army region, has said.

"First to leave their locations are minor formations in Army garrisons and preparations will be made at the same time for the Army's full departure from Slovenia," Gen. Raseta said in a statement the Belgrade daily VESENJE NOVOSTI (the EVENING NEWS) carries in its number today. In his belief, "the Yugoslav People's Army units will have withdrawn from Slovenia sooner than set by the Presidency of Yugoslavia - in less than three months." "It is not in our favour that this transfer become a long drawn-out one," he observed.

Also in its today's issue, the Belgrade daily POLITIKA quotes Gen. Raseta as saying that, "towards the next weekend, being awaited is the withdrawal of major Yugoslav Army units from Slovenia into Serbia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. This pullout can be done before the three-month timelimit runs out if the Slovene side would not try to prevent us from doing so," he went on. "Slovenia has started to make the implementation of the Presidency of state's decision a conditional matter," Gen. Raseta added. "Let's not even discuss the Yugoslav Army's leaving some of its movables here," Gen. Raseta pointed out in his statement to POLITIKA.

General on Issues of Army's 25 Jul Departure

AU2207161891 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Slobodan Kovacevic report from Ljubljana]

[Text] The first round of the Ljubljana talks on the withdrawal of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA], which has been called an army of occupation there, has been completed.

[Kovacevic] The SFRY Presidency' decision on the YPA's withdrawal from Slovenia will begin to be realized in three days time, Lieutenant Colonel Andrija Raseta, deputy commander of the Fifth Army District, told journalists in the Ljubljana Corps Command at the end of the first part of the negotiations with a Slovene delegation headed by Miran Bogataj, deputy Slovene defense minister.

Therefore, the first YPA units are going to leave the territory of Slovenia on Thursday, 25 July. Lt. Gen. Raseta said that according to the plan for the withdrawal, which will be completed before the end of the three months envisaged by the SFRY Presidency decision, members of not only the Ljubljana and Maribor Corps but also of the Fifth and 13th air force corps, which are also under the direct command of the Fifth Army District, will be withdrawn.

The efficiency of the Army surprises the Slovene side. It is now trying to find a way to postpone the realization of the withdrawal plan to bring about a Presidency decision on the distribution of YPA property in Slovenia. The value of movable property alone is estimated to be more than $8 billion. Therefore, the withdrawal can now be carried out only on condition that only smaller units are moved and that this is done in columns of five vehicles at the most, at a certain time, and with prior notification.

Gen. Raseta points out that leaving movable property in Slovenia is out of the question, because in that case, not only the relocation but dissolution of units would be involved.

In reply to the question of who will be protecting Yugoslavia's western borders, Lt.Gen. Andrija Raseta said that it is they—meaning the Slovene police—who are now protecting borders with Austria. He said the Slovene police told the Slovenes three days ago that the border was in their hands.

Gen. Raseta pointed out that the Army withdrew from several more watch towers along the Yugoslav-Italian border last night. If any incidents take place on the western borders after the YPA withdraws from Slovenia, Gen. Raseta says that the Army would intervene only if the SFRY Presidency so decided.

Army Paper: Croats 'Calling For' War

LD2207152491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1354 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 22 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav People's Army organ NARODNA ARMIJA writes today that official representatives of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia of late, are increasingly and hysterically anticipating and calling for war, which according to the paper, means that they want war in 'their' part of Yugoslavia.

Commenting [on] last week's press conference which had been called by Croatian Defence Minister Sime Djodan, and at which he 'seriously called for war and blood,' NARODNA ARMIJA writes that Croatia's offical representatives are doing 'all for war to break out.'

'In the resulting confusion, and using the interests of some foreign factors, they hope to achieve their unfullfilled dream of an Ustashi state in these areas,' writes NARODNA ARMIJA. With this goal in mind, 'mass paramilitary organizations have been formed, great quantities of arms illegally imported, and the parties have have been militarized,' writes NARODNA ARMIJA.

'All those who think this way must be stopped as soon as possible in the realization of their evil goals, because their war mongering does not only threaten Yugoslavia,' concludes NARODNA ARMIJA.

Criminal Proceedings Against Conscripts

LD2207183391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1603 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Banja Luka, July 22 (TANJUG)—The military prosecutor's office in Banja Luka, a city in the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, has instituted criminal proceedings against 1,166 conscripts of the Banja Luka corps and territorial defence.

The criminal proceedings, as the military prosecutor's office has announced, were instituted for desertion, disobeying orders, violent conduct, stealing army equipment and failing to respond to mobilization calls.

"Five people mainly responsible for inciting such criminal acts" have been placed under pre-trial detention, as reported.

The military prosecutor's office has announced that it would also institute criminal proceedings against "agitators, leaders of certain national parties, particularly the Party of Democratic Action (which rallies Muslims) and the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ)," who were active among conscripts.

International

Spanish Defense Minister Denies Arms Sales

LD2207181291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1518 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Madrid, July 22 (TANJUG)—No direct exports of Spanish-made arms to Yugoslavia existed, as Spanish Defence Minister Julian Garcia Vargas said at a news conference today.

Vargas said Spain was selling pistols and revolvers to some countries, including Austria, but no direct sales to Yugoslavia took place.

The Madrid daily EL PAIS yesterday revealed that considerable quantities of Spanish-made pistols had been transferred to Yugoslavia, primarily Slovenia and Croatia, via Austria during 1990 and 1991.

According to figures of the Spanish customs authorities, Spain sold ten pistols to Yugoslavia last year, while no such sales were registered this year.

However, arms exports to Austria have boomed. In 1990 alone, arms sales to Austria rose sixfold to around two million dollars.

Vargas said Spain complied with a decision on arms sales embargo against Yugoslavia, taken by the European Community early this month.

The Spanish press today said the government in Madrid should open an investigation into the "pistol affair" and explain in detail how Spanish arms have reached Yugoslavia.

Slovenia

Officials Discuss Expectations for Talks

AU2207154891 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] While Slovene President Milan Kucan and Janez Drnovsek, Slovene representative in the SFRY Presidency, waited several hours at Brnik Airport to get permission from the federal authorities for opening Slovene air space so they could depart for Ohrid, we were there with our news van. Igor Savic interviewed both of them for our special information program.

During the interview with President Kucan, who spoke about the current political situation in Yugoslavia, internationalization of the Yugoslav crisis, the SFRY Presidency decree on the Yugoslav Army's withdrawal from Slovenia, and about the role of foreign observers in Yugoslavia, he also discussed the positions Slovenia will take in the talks on Yugoslavia.

Among other things, Kucan said: [Begin Kucan recording] Regarding the basic question—whether to achieve Slovene independence through peace or war—

there probably cannot be great differences. This war that took place in Slovenia was obviously a prerequisite so we can now try to fulfill our independence in a peaceful manner. I am convinced that no one wants war any longer. Finally, this is also the conclusion of the Slovene Assembly, made when the Assembly endorsed the Brioni declaration. What one expects within those talks probably depends upon different views of the options that Slovenia has. Also important is understanding of the international and Yugoslav context, which unfortunately, of course, is not sympathetic to such changes. They do not see our efforts.

For the time being I would like to say that the documents adopted on 25 June and the statement that the Slovene Assembly issued when it endorsed the Brioni declaration contain our negotiating positions. From now on, we will continue to verify them in the Slovene Assembly. If any steps forward are made, in this or another direction, we see no problem from this point of view.

We are not a republic in which one could speak in the name of the republic without having the authority to do so or without having to answer for it afterward. So far, I think, we [word indistinct] rather well, and I do not see any reason why it could not be like this in the future. [end recording]

[Announcer] Dr. Janez Drnovsek, Slovene representative in the SFRY Presidency, stated the following about his expectations on today's Ohrid meeting:

[Begin Drnovsek recording] As regards today's session, I do not expect spectacular results such as those we witnessed last Thursday at the latest Presidency session when we passed a decree on the Army's withdrawal from Slovenia. The talks today and tomorrow, however, could represent the beginning of the resolution of our crisis, in which we would try to reach an agreement on what should remain on the Yugoslav territory—as in what sort of state? A union of states or a group of states? I believe the conditions for this have finally matured and that at least some people show more willingness that they did in the past. Public pressure is also great. So, something has been reached.

I think that one of the important elements of this agreement will also be to what extent and in what manner we will include the EC in our negotiations. A high EC official will also be present at the talks; therefore, it will be possible to reach agreement on the spot about what will happen in future negotiations, that is, (?whether) the EC will participate with its experts as well as on the political level. [end recording]

Kucan, Drnovsek Comment on Ohrid Talks

AU2307141891 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Matjaz Albreht report]

[Text] [President of the Slovene Presidency] Milan Kucan, [SFRY Presidency member] Janez Drnovsek, and Information Minister Jelko Kacin are taking part in a news conference in Ljubljana that started only 15 minutes ago. On the subject of the working meeting of the Federal Presidency and the presidents of the republics, Kucan said that the agenda comprised three points: a disarmament agreement, the discussion of an arrangement on the functioning of Yugoslavia during the moratorium, and an agreement on the realization of the Brioni Declaration.

Only the first point of the agenda was prepared. The peace statement that has been published has an important addendum, Milan Kucan said. The greatest complications arose there because of the situation in Croatia. The peace statement has been written for the sake of pacification in Yugoslavia and the addendum states that the Presidency of Yugoslavia should at once discuss the hotbeds of crisis in Croatia, that the reserves of the Croatian police should be demobilized, and that a state commission should be formed that would contribute to the return of the Army to the barracks. All this should be supervised by foreign observers.

Taking into consideration everything that is happening in Croatia, Mesic and Tudjman demanded a withdrawal of the Army to the barracks. Kucan and Drnovsek supported them.

As regards Point Two, an arrangement on the functioning of the state, Ante Markovic spoke about it in passing in his speech. This was a somewhat modified version of the 11 plus 3 proposal, Milan Kucan said. Our delegation replied that it cannot discuss this at such a meeting, because the Presidium is not empowered to act on such an accord. Without this accord, it was said, the question of how our delegation should represent Yugoslavia at The Hague arises.

As regards Point Three, the agreement, it was shown that it would be very difficult to reach any agreement. All the opportunities for further cooperation in Yugoslavia have again been opened.

After the session, Janez Drnovsek had talks with Defense Minister Veljko Kadijevic and with [Federal Deputy Defense Minister] Stane Brovet. This is just being explained at the news conference.

Government Stresses Share of Army Property

LD2207202591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1924 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Ljubljana, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—"When the property of the Yugoslav Army is being divided, the Republic of Slovenia will demand approximately the same proportion it has been earmarking for the army since 1945, that is, 25 to 31 percent, with which arms and other military equipment was purchased." This was stressed in a statement from today's session of the republican [Slovene]

government. The session adopted stands regarding technical aspects of the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army from Slovenia.

"Those in physical control of federal property are in a stronger negotiating position. This is especially true if the control in question is over weapons and military technology. The Republic of Slovenia, in agreeing that the army withdraw with a part of its technology, is objectively undermining its negotiating position on division of the federal property, but it is not renouncing its claims to that part of the common wealth," the statement says.

The Republic of Slovenia "unconditionally demands that all civil defense equipment still in warehouses and under supervision of the Yugoslav Army which can be used in the case of natural and other disasters, be returned," the statement says. It goes on to stress that Slovenia "also demands that weapons and other equipment of the territorial defense, confiscated last May, be returned."

The federal bodies, the republican government holds, "must immediately end all criminal proceedings against persons who left units of the Yugoslav Army before 19 July of this year in response to the Slovene Presidency call. Bodies of the Yugoslav Army must return identity cards and other personal possessions to these persons."

The republican government at the same time holds that the way should be paved for the release of all Slovene citizens from Yugoslav Army units, the statement concludes.

Croatia

Tudjman Convenes Croatian State Council

LD2207195591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1938 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Zagreb, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, who left the extended session of the SFRY Presidency in Ohrid a little after 2000 [1800 GMT] because of the recent developments in Croatia, has convened for 2200 this evening a session of the Supreme State Council of the Republic of Croatia.

The Supreme State council is expected to issue a statement after the session.

Jovic Comments on Tudjman's Departure From Ohrid

LD2307012391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0023 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 23 Jul (TANJUG)—"We have managed to adopt a peace declaration which should oblige everyone. The representatives of Croatia, Mesic and Tudjman, conditioned their approval of the declaration the demand that the Yugoslav People's Army on the territory of Croatia withdraw to its barracks." This was said tonight by SFRY Presidency member Borisav Jovic shortly before his departure from Ohrid, as he was reflecting on yesterday's session in the Biljana residence.

In Jovic's words, this was unacceptable to the other participants in the session, as well as to the SFRY Presidency itself, given the fact that the situation in Croatia has assumed such proportions that withdrawing the Yugoslav People's Army to the barracks might mean "open civil war and rivers of blood."

They were very determined, Jovic said, refering to Mesic and Tudjman. This is why the declaration was released by the consent of all the presidency members and all the republic presidents as well as by the other participants in the session, save the two of them. Jovic said this makes the statement incomplete to a certain degree, but this also illustrates the state of affairs.

Before leaving for Zagreb, Jovic noted that Tudjman "dictated his conditions and said that by no means was he going to accept anything unless the decision to withdraw the Army to the barracks was made." If this is accepted, Jovic said, Tudjman will accept the declaration. Otherwise he will not. This position was maintained until the end, Jovic said.

"We wanted to continue the session tomorrow," Jovic added, "but Tudjman refused to attend it unless his conditions were met. Since we could not accept the Army's return to barracks, Tudjman refused to come tomorrow. We will see what happens next," Jovic said toward the end, as he stressed that there would be no session in Ohrid tomorrow, nor would they meet in Belgrade because, as he put it, "we should try to find our positions again."

Tudjman Statement on 'War Situation'

LD2307000791 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Statement by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman "prior to a session of the Supreme State Council" of Croatia in Zagreb on 22 July—recorded]

[Text] Today at 2000, I left a session of the SFRY Presidency, representatives of federal institutions and the republican presidents in Ohrid. [passage indistinct] before this, I presented at the session specific information about how the Chetnik terrorist movement developed in Croatia against the democratic Croatian government, with the help of Chetnik emmissaries from Serbia, retired generals and some serving officers of the Yugoslav Army. This way, entire groups of 15, 20, 30 and 40 men with Chetnik insignia and programs were infiltrated into various parts of Croatia trying to foster terrorist activity against the democratic Croatian authorities. They are trying to deceive the Serbian population in certain locations and frighten it with claims that units of the Ministry for Internal Affairs, special units, are coming, that the Croatian authorities are Ustasha-like,

fascist, etc. In this way, they really succeeded in winning over a number of people in Serbian- populated places.

I presented specific information—with officials from Serbia taking part—on which military officers, which retired generals, etc. While a discussion about this was still under way, it was clearly denied by the Serbian side. (?When news came) that some 20 people, civilians, policemen and members of the National Guard Corps, died in today's clashes in Croatia, I immediately said that I will not take part in the work of that session anymore, unless it was agreed by 2000 [1800 GMT] to immediately issue an order that Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] units withdraw into barracks. I demanded that illegal, as they call them, and paramilitary organizations, which applies only to those outlaws, be disarmed; and unless the EC observer mission—which has already arrived in Croatia and Slovenia—is involved in resolving that critical, by now certainly, a war situation.

Regarding the statement discussed about a principled stand for peace, democracy, etc., I said that for a year we have been deceiving ourselves and that we have not come closer to a solution. I recall that from the very beginning we proposed that the Yugoslav crisis be resolved by creating an alliance of sovereign states. I recalled that we called a referendum when we failed to reach a decision to set up an alliance of sovereign states. I recalled that this movement, this movement of outlaws in Serbia, in Croatia organized and helped from within Serbia, has assumed bloody proportions, has assumed war characteristics, following the proclamation of our independence. I also recalled that this policy towards Croatia, democratic Croatia, was conducted before the democratic government was established in Croatia, when the Croatian Territorial Defense, with (?200,000) people, was completely disarmed, while the Slovene Territorial Defense, as we have seen, could put up resistance to the JNA in its defense, of sovereignty and democracy of the Republic of Slovenia.

Likewise, we can see from statements and television, that the Serbian Territorial Defense is being formed. So, only Croatia was disarmed. If some scold us in Croatia, which was mentioned in a statement by a foreign ambassador, for overarming, then I say that we are not overarmed, but that we have armed ourselves so that we can set up and defend a constitutional-legal system.

So, we have reached a point when we cannot waste time in fruitless negotiations. We can now say that in this three-month moratorium period, forged with the EC we can only try to establish peace, but only if YNA units withdraw immediately into barracks, because these units, although they have not yet been directly involved, even though it seems to me that they were involved today served as a cover for rebels, terrorists and their activities. They were used to deceive Serbian people that the Army and Serbia, and so on, are on their side, and so they would get involved in activities against democratic authorities.

At the conference, I expressed my dissatisfaction to the federal secretary for foreign affairs because he—quite likely in collusion with the Federal Executive Council President—did not agree that a special emissary, the president of the EC Council of Ministers, which as a council is already involved in resolving the Yugoslav crisis and which wanted to be informed about the course of negotiations and ways of resolving the crisis, comes to the Ohrid conference. I then said that it was clear to us that the crisis in Croatia, especially following the decisions on the withdrawal of the YNA from Slovenia, has exacerbated, that Croatia is directly threatened by YNA units which are (?in collusion with) increasingly strong outlaw movements and by Army forces which are being grouped around Croatia.

So, we in Croatia are very interested in the internationalization of the Yugoslav crisis and in seeing that the EC is directly acquainted with preparations against...[changes thought] for toppling of the democratic authorities with a program for the creation of a Greater Serbia or a Yugoslavia in line with views of those in favor of centralistic and unitaristic solutions. These were reasons why I left the session. The session of the presidency, together with the republican presidents is still under way, but I will not return to it unless the statement endorses our demands that preconditions for a peaceful solution are created by the withdrawal of the Army into barracks.

In connection with this, I am addressing Croatia's citizenry, Croatian people, in order to call on them to be composed and resolute so they do not succumb to further provocations leading to further bellicose confrontations. But they should also be ready these days to face, perhaps, even an all-out war in defense of Croatia. Having said that, I ask them to bear in mind that these Croatian authorities have been doing their best to equip our defense forces, both our police and the National Guard—which is organized to meet primarily the requirements of internal peace—with as much weaponry and equipment as we could possibly acquire under the circumstances surrounding us.

In doing so, we had to face insurmountable obstacles, because in no state could we acquire them (weapons) via those regular channels which are a routine practice in relations between states and in trade agreements. In this respect we had, as I have said, to negotiate unsurmountable obstacles. So, people should not think that we failed in anything we could have done. No, we did not. We did, and still are doing, our best to equip our defense forces with all the means required. But there are things that require time.

I, however, believe that we shall be able to resist, to resist successfully, any attempt of occupation or aggression against Croatia and that in so doing we are going to get help from international community, too. All our international visits, all my indirect meetings, have convinced me of that. I can say today, both before my departure

and now after my return, that I have already heard that some very serious international factors have demonstrated their interest.

This is why I am repeating this again. Let us not get provoked in those areas where the rival wants to see us provoked. Let us not take any individual and independent actions which are not planned by the competent organs of Internal Affairs and National Defense. Any kind of anarchy or arbitrariness must be curbed.

At that conference today, I was acquainted with a piece of information saying that some policemen had beaten up some federal minister and that they had boasted that even the president of the republic himself would have been of no help. I cannot be certain that these were not provocateurs or some, I do not know, drunkards of ours, or simply unresponsible people. Such individual cases among our ranks ought to be curbed, because it is precisely such cases that provide the Yugoslav Army with a pretext and justify acts of aggression against our republic in the eyes of the international public.

Hence, we need order, we need discipline, we need responsibility by every man in the state administration and particularly in the organs of Internal Affairs and National Defense. We need the willingness of the people, but not the kind of willingness that will result in unnecessary casualties, which will draw us into war. If there is a chance, we can defend Croatia's freedom and sovereignty without it. If we are not able to, if we have to, then I will be the first to call on all defense forces and the entire nation to defend itself.

TANJUG Carries Ohrid Declaration

LD2307015391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0101 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 23 Jul (TANJUG)—The participants in a session of the SFRY Presidency with the republican presidents, that is, presidents of the republican presidencies, and the top federal officials, adopted their Ohrid declaration in Ohrid late last night, which reads as follows:

"Yugoslavia is experiencing its most dramatic moments. The intranational clashes and interrepublican confrontations are threatening war and catastrophic consequences to all our citizens, to all our nations and nationalities.

"We must put an end to the use of force which has already claimed, and is still claiming, human lives while it is also dragging us away from the realization of our vital interests.

"These interests are full equality and mutual respect for the rights of our nations to decide in a sovereign and independent way about their future and the future of Yugoslavia, freedom of communication and establishing ties with the world and achievements of modern civilization.

"All this can only be achieved through peace.

"Facing war and peace, we, the participants in this meeting, are stating that we undividedly and categorically favor peace and a democratic denouement of the Yugoslav crisis.

"We will do our best to overcome our divisions and mutual mistrust. By committing ourselves to opposing the use of force we advocate talks and dialogue between equal republics and a solution to the Yugoslav crisis by agreement.

"In seeking acceptable solutions for all our republics and all our nations and nationalities we maintain that one must proceed from the real interests and achievements of our living together and the need for the institutions of the Yugoslav system to function and the Brioni accord as well as from the principles set out in the final Helsinki document and the Paris Charter.

"We require support from the citizens of Yugoslavia for our perseverance in this commitment to peace and democracy.

We have accepted and pledged ourselves to strictly abide by these principles and commitments as our first move toward a peaceful solution to all contentious issues. We have agreed that an agreement should be reached on the functioning of the country during the three-month period on the basis of the Federal Executive Council's proposition and that work on finding solutions to our future relations should start.

"Let us concentrate on work and creating the conditions for overcoming the crisis, introducing new political and economic stability, social security and a new cycle of development.

"One must not be hindered by anyone in one's exercise of the sovereign rights and the will of one's nation. Only if all of us decide freely on our future we will achieve peace and a democratic denouement of our grave crisis.

"In the course of adopting this declaration the SFRY Presidency's conclusion that the situation in the crisis locations in the Republic of Croatia should be immediately examined was borne in mind.

"The Yugoslav Presidency will set up a fact-finding state commission which will monitor the implementation of the decision and it will also demand that the EC observer mission get involved in monitoring the implementation of these decisions.

"President of the SFRY Presidency Stipe Mesic and President of the Republic of Croatia Franjo Tudjman demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the Yugoslav People's Army to its barracks, something that was not accepted by most of the participants in the meeting and this is also why they did not approve of the wording of the declaration.

"At a later stage the SFRY Presidency will consider together with the participants in this session draft measures facilitating the functioning of the country's system in the course of the three-month moratorium and carry out the agreement on further work in finding solutions to future relations in the Yugoslav community."

Council Demands Federal Army Return to Barracks

LD2307104391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0951 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Zagreb, July 23 (TANJUG)—The Supreme State Council of the Yugoslav republic of Croatia held a closed-door session last night at which it demanded that "Yugoslav People's Army return to barracks immediately" as a "prerequisite for all future talks on resolving the crisis."

The meeting was called by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on his return last night from an enlarged session of the Yugoslav state Presidency in Ohrid in the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

Tudjman left the Presidency session yesterday after failing to win support for his demand that the Yugoslav Army return to barracks "by 8 P.M. local time."

Council Reviews 'War Theater' Situation

LD2307051191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0300 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] A Supreme State Council session was held in Zagreb early this morning. It was convened at short notice by President Tudjman following his return from an expanded session of the Yugoslav Presidency in Ohrid. The Supreme Council discussed the latest developments in the war theater of eastern Slovania and other parts of the Republic where Croatian policemen and a large number of citizens have been killed. A statement from this session says that forces of the National Guard and the Ministry for Internal Affairs successfully repelled attacks around Josip Dol and Plasko and that the retaking of [words indistinct] strongholds in Mirkovci was carried out successfully, while the outlaws sustained a large number of casualties.

Unfortunately, due to an unscrupulous terrorist bombardment of civilian targets, and the conduct of the Yugoslav Army, there was a considerable number of casualties among the law and order forces and civilians. The active involvement of two military aircraft that opened automatic fire on positions of the Guard and civilian facilities in Vinkovci, Mirkovci and Novi Cakovci, where there were no clashes at all, and the firing of shells from barracks, bear witness to the fact that the Yugoslav Army is stepping up its active involvement in this confrontation.

The Supreme State Council announces that Croatia will energetically demand a mixed state commission and foreign observers in order to establish, in particular, the circumstances surrounding the killing of a large number of members of the Guard in cross-fire near a depot of the Yugoslav Army.

[Words indistinct] that yesterday Federal Executive Council member, Stevo Mirjanic, was harassed in Croatia's territory by two as yet unidentified young persons wearing uniforms. The Ministry for Internal Affairs will investigate all circumstances surrounding this incident. The perpetrators will be brought to justice. In the light of the fact that there have already been cases of individuals disguising themselves in uniforms of Croatian police and the Guard as a means of theft and other crimes, one should pay particular attention to these.

The Croatian authorities will take energetic action against individuals among the ranks of police who overstep their authority, as well as against those citizens who are increasing interethnic intolerance by threats and voluntary actions.

At its session tonight, the Supreme State Council was briefed by President Tudjman on yesterday's session of the Yugoslav Presidency, at which Croatia resolutely demanded that the Yugoslav Army withdraw into its barracks, an obligation it assumed under the Brioni Accord. It was stressed that this was the precondition for all future talks on resolving the crisis.

'Fierce' Fighting in Mirkovci; Army Deployed

LD2207135691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1304 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sid, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—In a fierce attack by members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] and the Croatian National Guard in the village of Mirkovci, as of noon today [1000 GMT], 10 members of the MUP and National Guard had died, while two were killed among those defending the village.

Among these two defenders of the village, according to information from the Information Center in Sid [Vojvodina], which claims that it is getting information directly from the scene, one defender of the village was butchered.

The village of Mirkovci (in western Srem) was attacked with strong mortar-fire very early this morning at about 0500 by members of the MUP and the Croatian National Guard. The Information Center in Sid announced that the attack was carried out from several directions, while the fiercest attack from the direction of the village of Privlaka. At one point the circle of defenders of the village was breached and then, according to the information from the center in Sid, fierce fighting, virtually face to face, took place.

The village defense headquarters today appealed for help to be sent because the forces of the Croatian attackers, which according to are the center in Sid are 10 times

more numerous, are constantly shelling the village, while snipers are constantly firing from the notorious silo.

Residents of Mirkovci request that they be sent medical teams because there are many injured and urgent medical assistance is vital for them.

After the first attack this morning by members of the MUP and the National Guard was repulsed, a fresh attack followed at about 0730. According to the latest reports from the center in Sid, at about 1230 there was a new attack on Mirkovci, and this center was informed by defenders of the village that there is complete hell in Mirkovci.

Only at about 1030, the information center in Sid announced, were units of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army sent to Mirkovci.

Police, National Guard Members Slain in Mirkovci

LD2207160191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1504 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Sid, July 22 (TANJUG)—Ten members of Croatian police and National Guard were killed this afternoon in a fierce attack on the predominantly Serbian-populated village of Mirkovci in Croatia.

The information centre in Sid in the Province of Vojvodina (part of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia), which asserted it obtained information directly from the site of events, said that two farmers who were defending the village were also killed, one of them with his throat cut.

Units of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), sent to the village of Mirkovci, were unable to prevent this attack performed by members of the Croatian Interior Ministry (MUP).

The same information centre said that at around 05 a.m., the village of Mirkovci in western Srem was attacked by members of MUP and Croatian National Guard with strong mortar fire from several directions, most fiercely from the village of Privlaka.

At one time the circle of Mirkovci defenders was broken and then, as the information centre said, fierce and almost hand-to-hand fighting broke out.

Mirkovci villagers sought surgeon teams to be sent there because they had a large number of wounded who need urgent medical assistance.

Armed conflicts took place this morning also in the central Croatian locality of Josipdol near Ogulin.

The Ogulin information centre said that shortly after 05 a.m. Mortar fire was opened on Josipdol petrol station and motel, where local police are stationed.

The attack, attributed to 'Martic's' policemen of the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region (SAO) of Krajina, lasted until 07 a.m., and none of the targets were hit.

Karlovac police chief Zvonimir Krajacic asserted that 'Martic's' policemen were driven back to Plasko where they had come from, while one Croatian MUP reservist was wounded and transported to a Zagreb hospital.

JNA Ogulin Garrison Commander Major Radosevic said that his soldiers never interfered in the conflict.

In Osijek, northern Croatia, it was rather quiet overnight, with sporadic clashes occurring between Croatian National Guardsmen or policemen and armed Serbian villagers from this part of Croatia.

The Association of Yugoslav Railways told newsmen today that several railways in Croatia were closed because of armed conflicts.

At 04:55 a.m., the Vinkovci-Jankovci section of the Vinkovci- Belgrade railway and the Vinkovci-Vrapcani section of the Vinkovci- Brcko railway were closed down due to fightings in the area.

For security reasons, trains still operate only in daytime on the Osijek-Vinkovci railway.

The Railways Association said also that Croatian MUP members were still intercepting trains from Belgrade to search passengers at the stations of Tovarnik and Jankovci. Between July 7 and 21, at the two stations, as many as 249 trains were held, at an aggregate delay time of 3,895 minutes.

Aircraft Bomb Croatian National Guard

LD2207202891 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] At 1730 [1530 GMT] today two military aircraft dropped bombs on National Guard Corps positions in Novi Cakovci, in the Vukovar municipality, Tatjana Mausner reports for Croatian Radio. According to available information, seven guardists were wounded and one of them was taken to the Vukovar hospital in a critical state. An investigation is underway. It is supposed that this senseless attack by military aircraft has had even more tragic consequences.

A column of some 20 military vehicles left the Vukovar barracks and headed towards the villages of Negoslavci and Mirkovci.

According to latest information released by the Osijek police administration, terrorists in the center of Tenja have again launched a mortar attack on positions held by the [Croatian] Ministry for Internal Affairs on the outskirts of this village. No one was hurt.

YPA Garrison Details Attack on Mirkovci

LD2207190291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1812 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Vinkovci, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—The command of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] garrison in Vinkovci today stated that an attack on the Serbian population of

the village of Mirkovci was carried out today. A strong force of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard Corps were engaged. The attack started at 0500 and lasted until 1400. Mortar shells and snipers were deployed. Thirty-two people, mainly women and children, sought help and shelter in a military warehouse in Vrpcani.

The command of the Vinkovci Garrison still has no reliable information about the number of dead and wounded, the statement says.

A statement by the YPA Garrison in Vinkovci further states:

"Strong forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard Corps approached the barracks around 1245. At 1300, an ultimatum was issued to the National Guard Corps to stop fire and to withdraw all forces around the barracks, so that the wounded could be taken to a hospital. The ultimatum was partially observed. At 1345, members of the garrison were forced to fire several grenades as a sign of warning. At 1400 the shooting stopped. The cease-fire is still in force.

"During the afternoon, however, apartments where active military personnel live, were broken into. The command has information that the property of people who left their homes is being removed. Members of the National Guard Corps are firing shots from empty apartments. The situation in and around Vinkovci is still very tense and uncertain," the statement of the command of the YPA Garrison in Vinkovci concludes.

Guard, 'Chetniks' Waging 'Real War' in Vinkovci

LD2207140591 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Excerpts] According to the latest reports from Vinkovci a real war is raging in this town. Terrorist gangs from the village of Mirkovci are indiscriminately shelling Vinkovci with their mortars. We have learned that the town is completely deserted as most citizens have taken refuge in basements and other shelters. The shells are landing on an area containing a hospital, a post office, the police administration building, and Vinkovci's railway station.

Members of the National Guard are also responding with mortar fire to the latest attack mounted by the Chetniks. The outlaws from Vinkovci are also shelling the village of Stari Jankovci. [passage omitted]

This morning 18 individuals were taken to Vinkovci's hospital. One policeman was dead on arrival, while five policeman were injured. The rest of the wounded were civilians. Let us repeat that these are just incomplete reports, because telephone lines to Vinkovci are virtually nonoperational.

Situation in Vinkovci Reported

LD2207173291 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] According to the latest information, the town of Vinkovci is now quiet following strong clashes throughout the town and surrounding areas.

According to the latest information released by the Vinkovci police administration, 14 members of the [Croatian] National Guard Corps, one member of the [Croatian] Ministry for Internal Affairs, and five civilians died in today's clashes. Twenty-one people, among them nine guardists and two policemen, are receiving treatment in the Vinkovci hospital. It is feared the death toll could be even higher.

The Vinkovci streets are almost deserted this afternoon. Neither rail nor road traffic is running through the town. In line with an order from the (?commander) of the National Guard Corps, the town is completely blocked, especially toward the Republic of Serbia. HINA [Croatian news agency] reports that all approaches to Vinkovci from Serbia are mined.

Zagreb Radio Says Vinkovci 'Quiet'

LD2207152491 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Summary] Vinkovci is quiet as of 1230 GMT. The number of dead and injured "is large on both sides." So far it is known that there are five dead and about 20 injured. The latter have been brought to the Vinkovci medical center.

'Terrorists' Hit Village With Mortars

LD2207205191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] According to information from the police administration in Sisak, around 1900 this evening terrorists opened mortar fire on Struga and Divusa, villages with a Croatian population in the municipality of Dvor na Uni. Fourteen mortars hit the village. Forces of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard Corps, aided by the village inhabitants, are offering resistance to the terrorists. So far we have not learned any details on casualties.

One Killed, Several Injured in Plaski Clashes

LD2207182191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1748 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Plaski, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—After this morning's attack by the forces of Milan Martic, secretary of the Krajina Secretariat for Internal Affairs, on the hotel in Josipdol, where the police station is located, there was a brief period of calm. A counterattack followed.

According to Dr. Zoran Tomic, duty doctor at the Ogulin Medical Center, one member of the Ministry of Internal

Affairs [MUP] was killed, and one was seriously injured and is in danger of dying. He was taken this morning to a hospital in Zagreb. So far, three injured members of the MUP have been received at the Ogulin Medical Center. A medical team failed to get through to positions being held by Martic's forces.

Because of the ferocity of the clashes, it is believed that there are more injuries on both sides.

Air Force Overflies Vinkovci; Guard Opens Fire

LD2207142191 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] We have just received a report from Vinkovci that military aircraft have been overflying Vinkovci. Members of the [Croatian] National Guard fired on them as they returned fire. Following these overflights and the realization that the soldiers in Vinkovci's barracks were in full combat gear standing by their tanks and directed toward the town, units of the National Guard have started erecting barricades on all approaches to Vinkovci. We have just learned that three rounds have been fired into the air from cannons in the Vinkovci barracks.

Forces Retaliate for Attack in Josipdol

LD2207140991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1341 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Plaski, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—Members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP], the National Guard, and special forces of Croatia set out during the morning in a counterattack following this morning's attack by Martic's forces on the police station in Josipdol.

According to Zvonimir Krajacic, head of the operational police administration in Karlovac, Martic's forces were pushed back to Plaski, from where they had come. One MUP reservist was seriously injured in the clashes and was taken immediately to a hospital in Zagreb.

Major Radosevic, commander of the Ogulin garrison, claims that members of this garrison did not intervene in any way in the conflict.

Croatian Police Attack Army Near Serbian Border

LD2307091691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0818 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Novi Sad, July 23 (TANJUG)—Armed units of the Yugoslav republic of Croatia attacked Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) units near the bridge which connects Croatia and the Yugoslav republic of Serbia with grenades and machine-guns at about 01:00 a.m. local time today (23.00 p.m. Monday, GMT).

A statemeet of the information secretariat of Vojvodina, Serbia's northern province, says that JNA units, the Novi Sad corps and the river fleet, replied with "strong fire from infantry and artillery weapons" to this unprovoked attack by the Croatian police and the national guard (the illegal republican army).

The statement specifies that "the JNA suffered no casualties." There is no word about possible losses suffered by the other side.

This clash was preceded by several clashes in the same place on previous days.

Senior officers of the Novi Sad corps (Vojvodina) underscore that they tried on several occasions, without success, to agree with the Croatian police about the unhindered execution of their constitutional tasks and that they are "still exposed to frequent provocations and attacks," the statement says.

Sid Reports Croatian Police Massing on Border

LD2007184991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1609 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] Sid, Yugoslavia, July 20 (TANJUG)—The national defence secretariat of the commune of Sid, which lies on Serbia's border with Croatia, said today strong forces of the Croatian Interior Ministry were again amassing alongside the border.

The secretariat said it feared the Croatian police could confiscate wheat being transported from villages in Croatia to the Province of Vojvodina, in Serbia.

It said Croatian police and armed civilians who were members of Croatia's ruling party, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), were spraying trains with gunfire at the station of Tovarnik, which lies just inside Croatia on the main line connecting Belgrade and Zagreb.

The secretariat also said that at the station of Stari Jankovci, a few kilometres further into Croatia, a young woman had been beaten and tied up in a place where she was visible; to passengers of trains passing by. She was described as an inhabitant of Mirkovci, a town in Croatia near Stari Jankovci inhabited mainly by Serbs.

Krajina's Martic Explains Plaski Fighting

AU2207204591 Belgrade RTV Sat TV in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Danko Peric report]

[Text] Milan Martic, Krajina minister for internal affairs, told journalists in the Secretariat for Internal Affairs that Dane Bunjevac, born in 1969 and unit commander of the militia station in Plaski, which operates as part of the Krajina Secretariat for Internal Affairs, was killed in fighting in Plaski. According to Martic, Bunjevac died a hero while leading a group of defenders that was suddenly attacked early this morning.

Reinforcements arrived at the Plaski militia station and the fighting continued. It was particularly intensive in

the early afternoon. Martic said that there has been a cease-fire since yesterday in the crisis hot spot between the villages of Lisane and Ostrovica near Benkovac without much shooting, although shots could sometimes be heard.

The minister of internal affairs of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina said that the situation of 1941 is being repeated, when Serbs were called upon to join the reserve forces of the home guard and Ustasha units, and they were sent to the frontlines. Martic stressed that he had confidence in the awareness and conscience of the Serbs outside the territory of the Serbian Autonomous Region to whom these calls are now being sent, so they will not respond to them.

Regarding this kind of mobilization, I will tell you about the report that has arrived from the village of [name indistinct]. Sixteen Serbs were snatched on the beach in this town and sent to the mobilization center of the corps of the Croatian National Guard.

The first womens volunteer unit in Kordun was set up in Vrginmost yesterday. The unit is made up of 50 women who ended their training yesterday with shooting practice. We have learned that interest in joining womens volunteer resistance squads continues to be exceptionally great in this area.

Media Announce Civil Defense Instructions

LD2207144491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1347 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Zagreb, July 22 (TANJUG)—All media in Croatia today carried an announcement by the Zagreb civil protection staff instructing the citizens what to do in case of an air raid on the Croatian capital. "The use of large forces and attacks on civilians in Zagreb can no longer be ruled out," the announcement said.

Similar instructions were issued to the citizens of the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana before and during the armed clash between the republican forces and Yugoslav Army units.

The most influential Zagreb daily, VJESNIK, devoted a full page of its Sunday issue to "defence in case of war." In its Sunday evening news broadcast, Croatian television screened the instructions to the citizens in case Zagreb was attacked.

Croatian citizens can dial a local phone number to get "the latest information" about "the Serbian extremists' terrorism over the Croatian population, the joint activities of Serbian terrorists and the Yugoslav Army," and so on.

Croatian newspapers today came out with stories about a "collusion between the Yugoslav Army and Serbian terrorists" in parts of Croatia where armed clashes between Serbian civilians, on one hand, and Croatian police and National Guard units, on the other, are taking place.

VJESNIK frontpages a report on a mortar attack on the village of Erdut, not far from Osijek, in eastern Slavonia, which it says the local population blamed on the Yugoslav Army.

The daily also writes that the Yugoslav Army "is looting farms in Slavonia," northeastern Croatia, saying that "cattle from the Lovas farm near Vukovar was carried to the province of Vojvodina (part of the Republic of Serbia) by civilian-owned trucks escorted by Army personnel carriers."

A statement also published by the Croatian press today says the leadership of the Slavonia and Baranja branch of the ruling Croatian Democratic Union has warned about danger from "the Yugoslav Army's occupation forces."

Ante Barisic, an expert on military and security affairs close to the Croatian authorities, writes in the latest issue of the Zagreb weekly DANAS that the Croatian media is "following the example set by the Slovenian media and getting more actively and firmly involved in following developments, creating an impression among the public about the seriousness of the situation which is bordering on war."

Official Reports 22 Jul Casualty Figures

LD2307135991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1152 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Zagreb, 23 Jul (TANJUG)—During yesterday's fierce armed clash near Vinkovci, 14 members of the Croatian National Guard, 1 policeman, and 5 civilians were killed. At the same time 14 guards, 3 policemen, and 11 citizens were injured.

This was stated today at the regular news conference in Zagreb by Milan Brezak, assistant minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Croatia. He added that there is still no information whatsoever as to what has happened to 12 guards because, he said, they were in "a specific environment". [passage omitted]

To the question of how many casualties there were "on the other side", Brezak replied that according to Ministry of Internal Affairs information "at least 60 terrorists were liquidated." He also claims that so far a total of 112 "terrorists" have been arrested.

However, Milan Brezak also said that, judging by the force of the blows delivered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs over the past few days, they estimate that on the other side there must be "hundreds of casualties."

In conclusion, Milan Brezak said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs now "does not have full control of a total of 4.5 percent of the territory of Croatia."

Serbs Assail Tudjman's Support to 'Ustasha'

LD2207204891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1856 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, July 22 (TANJUG)—The Association of Serbs from Croatia today said that the president of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, visited Osijek yesterday "to again lend support to the Ustasha war-mongering programme".

"Tudjman wanted to encourage his militant followers to carry out armed attacks on the innocent Serbian population," the Association of Serbs from Croatia said.

Serbs from Croatia thus reacted to Tudjman's statement yesterday that Croatia would not cede eastern Slavonija. Tudjman visited the town of Osijek in eastern Slavonija, a region with a mixed population which has been the site of clashes over the past few weeks.

Croatian police and National Guard attacked the Serbian village of Mirkovci, in the vicinity of Osijek, early this morning.

The defenders of the village and the commander of the nearest Yugoslav army garrison, to where the women and children from the village have fled, said that there were casualties in the fierce attack which lasted well into the afternoon.

Casualties in Republic Since August 1990 Reported

LD2207154891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1504 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Zagreb, July 22 (TANJUG)—Armed conflicts in the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia have resulted in 66 deaths and 249 wounded since August 1990. These facts were given today by Croatian Minister for Informatian Hrvoje Hitrec. Hitrec told a press conference that 46 members of the Croatian police and 20 civilians had been killed, and 160 police and 89 civilians wounded.

Hitrec added that of the dead civillians ten were Croats and eight Serbs. In the case of three deaths and 21 wounded, Hitrec said that it had not been possible to determine if the 'perpetrators had been politically motivated.'

Hitrec said further, that the police 'in a strong counteraction' had killed seven 'terrorists' and captured 12 in the vicinity of Topusko, in the region of Banija in central Croatia. He did not specify when this had taken place. 'Croatia's police forces have the initiative in areas of eastern Slavonia and Banija,' said Hitrec.

Under the term 'terrorists,' the Croatian authorities refer to armed Serbian civillians and police of the self-proclaimed Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina.

Radio Airs Contentious Section of Declaration

LD2307004491 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0000 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Everyone except the hosts and Bogicevic has left Ohrid. It was also said that a peace declaration had been adopted, although Stipe Mesic and Franjo Tudjman dissociated themselves from it. At about 0130 [2330 GMT] the peace declaration was distributed to the few journalists waiting in the press center. We quote the disputable part:

One must not be hindered by anyone in one's exercise of the sovereign rights and will of one's nation. Only if all of us decide freely on our future we will achieve peace and a democratic denouement of our grave crisis. In adopting the declaration the Yugoslav Presidency's conclusion that the situation in the crisis locations in the Republic of Croatia should be immediately examined was taken into account. The Yugoslav Presidency will set up a fact-finding state commission which will monitor the implementation of the decision and it will also demand that the EC observer mission get involved in the monitoring of the implementation of these decisions.

President of the Yugoslav Presidency Stipe Mesic and President of the Republic of Croatia Franjo Tudjman demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the Yugoslav People's Army to its barracks, something that was not accepted by most of the participants in the meeting. This is also why they did not approve of the wording of the declaration. [passage omitted]

Croatian Police Reportedly Attack FEC Member

LD2207131891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1203 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—Yesterday at about 1300 [1100 GMT] on the main road between Slavonski Brod and Belgrade near the turn off for Osijek, members of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] stopped a Federal Executive Council [FEC] car (registration number BG-02-64) occupied by Dr. Stevo Mirjanic, a member of the FEC and Federal secretary for agriculture, and beat him up. On this occasion the FEC sent a letter of protest to Josip Manolic, Republic of Croatia prime minister, which says:

Croation MUP members, in a very arrogant and unscrupulous way, searched the vehicle and then pulled FEC member Dr. Stevo Mirjanic out of the car pointing a pistol and an automatic rifle at him, although he had previously shown proof of his membership in the FEC and his identity card. One of the police then kicked Dr. Mirjanic several times with his heavy-duty boot in the area of the ribs and in the head, causing him bodily harm. The police kept Dr. Mirjanic's official identity card.

In its letter to the Croatian prime minister the FEC protests most energetically and points out that this is not

the first case in which official FEC vehicles have been stopped in Croatia, the FEC Secretariat for Information announces.

The FEC demands that a joint state commission composed of representatives of the FEC and of the Government of Croatia be formed to make a full report on this incident and propose appropriate measures, it says at the end of the FEC Secretariat for Information statement.

Zagreb-Belgrade Main Rail Line To Shut Down

LD2207165791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1621 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—Ljubomir Stoziniv, assistant director general of the Belgrade railway transport enterprise, said this afternoon that the Croatian Zagreb railway transport enterprise has decided to discontinue passenger railway traffic on the Belgrade-Zagreb mainline.

Passenger railway traffic on the Belgrade-Zagreb mainline has thus been completely closed down and it is not certain how long the line will remain closed, the Belgrade railway enterprise stressed.

The assistant director general of the Belgrade railway transport enterprise issued a public statement on the disruption of passenger traffic on that line, referring to a telegram which he had received this afternoon from the Zagreb railway transport enterprise.

The Belgrade railway transport enterprise stressed that negotiations on the continuation of freight traffic on the most important Yugoslav railway line are still under way.

Serbia

Milosevic Says Unity Not Achieved in Ohrid

LD2307010391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0033 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 23 Jul (TANJUG)—"We came here to take one step, however humble, toward peace, which is in the greatest and most long-standing interest of all our citizens. Unfortunately, not even in the statement on this was it possible to achieve unity", said Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic tonight before flying from Ohrid to Belgrade at the end of the expanded session of the Yugoslav Federal Presidency.

"For that reason I think", Milosevic said, "that all those who do not take account of people's lives must face the responsibility above all, before their own peoples. Despite all this, we will do everything to preserve peace in this country and to protect the interest of the people", Milosevic said.

Vojvodina's Bozovic Views Relations With Hungary

LD2207182391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1627 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Budapest, July 22 (TANJUG)—Premier of Vojvodina (one of two provinces in the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia) Radoman Bozovic, said that there were no outstanding questions between Serbia and Hungary.

"I am convinced that the Hungarian Government wants good-neighbourly relations with Serbia," said Bozovic in an interview to the Budapest daily MAGYAR HIRLAP.

"The position of the Hungarian minority in Serbia is good, which unfortunately cannot be said of the Serbian minority in Hungary," said Bozovic. He went on to illustrate his statement with facts pertaining to education and the preservation of the Serbs' cultural heritage, and expressed hope that Hungary's democratic public would demand that this unsatisfactory situation be changed.

"Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's recent statement is historically incorrect. The Trianon and Paris treaties regulated only the external and not the internal borders," said Bozovic.

The matter refers to Antall's statement that in 1918 Vojvodina became part of Yugoslavia and not part of Serbia, which raised protests in Serbia and in Hungarian opposition circles.

Bozovic said that Serbia supported a peaceful outcome of the Yugoslav crisis and added that "no matter what the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis, Vojvodina would remain part of Serbia."

Bozovic rejected accusations that the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) was the Army of one party (the Socialist Party—former communists) and that it was becoming a one-nationality Army (Serbian), underscoring that Vojvodina's Defence Minister Gezafarkas was a Hungarian.

Kosovo Opposition Forms Joint Committee

LD2207162391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1405 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Pristina, July 22 (TANJUG)—The opposition parties of ethnic Albanians in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo have formed a joint coordinating committee to coordinate the activities of the political subjects of the Albanian people and enable mutual consultations, as announced today.

The committee's objective is to create a joint platform and strategy for the realization of Albanian people's aspirations and to successfully oppose the measures imposed by the occupier and which are aimed at destroying the national being and sovereignty of ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia, as announced.

The coordinating committee comprises the Democratic Union of Kosovo, the Parliamentary Party of Kosovo, the Peasants' Party, the Albanian Christian Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party of Kosovo and the Republican Party of Kosovo.

Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Democratic Union of Kosovo, the largest party rallying ethnic Albanians, has been elected president of the committee.

Macedonia

Tupurkovski Reports Ohrid Meeting Delay, Agenda

LD2207114991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1049 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Ohrid, 22 Jul (TANJUG)—SFRY Presidency member Vasil Tupurkovski held a news conference in Ohrid this morning at which he announced that the Ohrid meeting would be delayed for two hours due to technical problems—as he put it—regarding the arrival of the Slovenian representatives and the need for the meeting's participants to get acquainted with documents drawn up as late as late last night.

Tupurkovski told the journalists that he expected the presidents of the republics and the republican Presidencies to sign "the Ohrid Declaration" on refraining from the use of force in relations between the republics and on their willingness to start multilateral talks on peacefully solving the crisis.

Commenting on the second document, prepared for the Ohrid meeting by the Federal Executive Council, regulating the functioning of the country's system during the three-month moratorium, Tupurkovski said that this was an agreement which should be signed by all the meeting's participants. It will regulate the spheres of defense and security, international decision-making, and relations in the country.

Tupurkovski announced that there would be another session of the Yugoslav Presidency by the end of the week which would consider the Croatian situation. In this context, he assessed that the relations between Serbia and Croatia were the key issue and that the Yugoslav Presidency ought to do its best to prevent the confrontation from escalating for if that were to happen, it might spread all over the country, evey beyond its borders.

Vasil Tupurkovski announced that in Ohrid the role of the Yugoslav People's Army and the disarming of paramilitary units would also be discussed on the basis of the Yugoslav Presidency's 18 July statement.

The news conference was attended by about 70 journalists.